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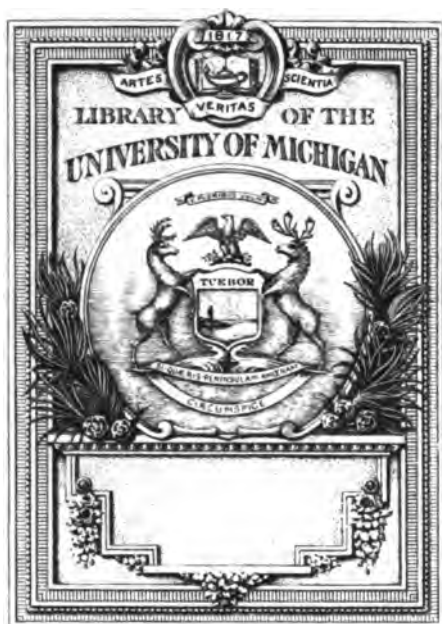
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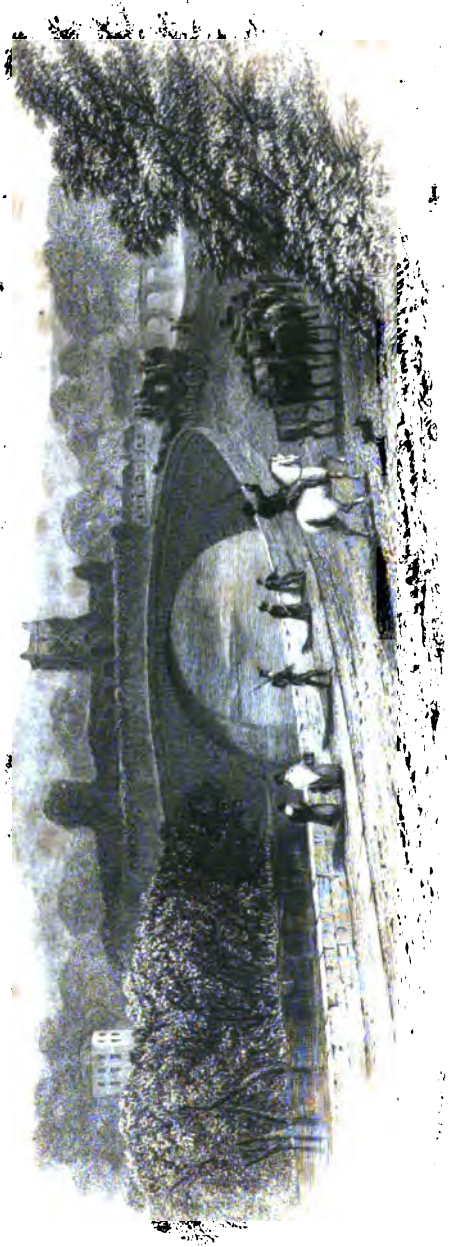
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View of Bridge from the "New Bridge"



THE  
HISTORY OF IRELAND,

FROM THE EARLIEST PERIOD TO THE YEAR 1245,

WHEN

THE ANNALS OF BOYLE,

WHICH ARE ADOPTED AND EMBODIED AS THE RUNNING TEXT  
AUTHORITY, TERMINATE:

WITH

A BRIEF ESSAY ON THE NATIVE ANNALISTS, AND OTHER  
SOURCES FOR ILLUSTRATING IRELAND,

AND

FULL STATISTICAL AND HISTORICAL NOTICES

OF THE

BARONY OF BOYLE.

BY

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ETC., ETC., ETC.

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# THE HISTORY OF IRELAND.

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ESTABLISHING their narrative as on the basis of Scriptural Chronology, the Annalists of Boyle commence, as do Tigernach and the Four Masters, with that first colonization of Ireland, of which Nennius, the British historian, also makes especial mention.

“In the sixtieth year of the age of Abraham, Partholanus, the son of Seru, the son of Esru, held Ireland, being the first who reigned there.”

According to the Four Masters, this event occurred in A. M. 2520, in thirty years after which this leader died at Moynealta (Clontarf). The latter annalists also mention the death of his son, Slangius, his interment under a mount(*a*), in Meath, hence called Slane, and the utter extirpation of these earliest invaders by pestilence. During their occupation, say the Masters, broke out various lakes within the country, as Lough Conn, Lough Mask, and Lough

(*a*) See of Mounts “D’Alton’s History of the County Dublin, pp. 332, &c.



Techet (Lough Gara(*a*)), while the origin of Lough Cuan (Lough Strangford) is attributed to an eruption of the sea. The clearing of various tracts on the new settlement is also noticed. On the destruction of this colony, the narrative of the Four Masters states, that Ireland remained uninhabited for thirty years, until Nemedius arrived upon the coast, with a new importation of adventurers, by whom, and their posterity, this country was held for upwards of 200 years; during which time Lough Annin (Ennel, in Westmeath), broke out from the earth, Moylurg (the Barony of Boyle) was cleared of wood, and various raths(*b*) or forts were constructed throughout the island; until, about A. M. 3060, the Fomorians, a tribe of foreigners, supposed to have come from Africa, took possession of the island of the tower (Tor-innis or Tory Island off the coast of Donegal), whence they made desolating excursions over Ireland, and, after various conflicts with the people, consigned the country again to solitude and waste. These early colonizations of Ireland, and especially the wars between the Nemedians and Fomorians, and the destruction of the tower, "*tuir*," on the island, are very fully illustrated in poems attributed to Eochaid O'Flin, who flourished in the ninth century, and who may be presumed to have been one of the "*peritissimi Scotorum*," whom, Nennius expressly mentions, he

(*a*) Of such natural phenomena, see *ante*, vol. i. p. 171.

(*b*) See of "Raths," *ante*, vol. i. p. 168.

consulted in compiling that portion of his work which relates to Irish history, and in which he reiterates those accounts. The Firbolgs were, A. M. 3266, according to the Annals of the Four Masters, the next colonists after the Nemedians, and a succession of their monarchs, to the number of eight, is there given, but no improvements, as by clearing of woods, or erection of forts, are attributed to these occupants, while another awful visitation of plague is referred to their time, in 3273. In thirty years afterwards, according to the above annalists, but, according to the Annals of Boyle,

“In the days of Moses, the power and possession of the Firbolgs were acquired by the Tuatha de Danans,”

who, having effected entrance into the heart of the country, obtained, at the memorable field subsequently designated “*Moigh Tuireadh*,” i. e. the field of the towers, near Lough Mask, such a signal victory over the unsuspecting and ill-prepared former settlers, as established themselves sole masters of the country. The lineal succession of their monarchs, to the number of nine, is recorded in the Annals of the Four Masters, and one of these, Lughadh, styled Lamhfhadha, i. e. “long-handed,” is said to have established an assembly and athletic sports at Tailten(a), which, if the origin of this people is rightly

(a) So called from Tailte, Queen of the last monarch of the Firbolg colony, who was buried there; the name is still preserved in that of the parish of Teltown, on the Blackwater, near Kells.

assigned as wanderers from the east, through Greece, might be considered a reminiscence of the Olympic games they witnessed in their earlier sojourning. The bardic accounts suggest, that by this colony the rites of the Magian worship, subsequently known as Druidism, were introduced into Ireland, and that the famous *Lia-fail*, or stone of destiny (fabled to have been the pillar on which Jacob rested his head, when he saw the vision of the angel), was carried with them for the inauguration of their kings. A stone, invested with such traditions, was said to have been long after brought over from Ireland to Scotland, and preserved in Scone, until politically removed, by Edward the First, thence to Westminster, where it continued for centuries, encased in the coronation chair of England; the reverence of a long series of years having thus given it that interest, which originated in so questionable a devotion (*a*).

(*a*) In the Book of Kilronan there is a copy of the form of inauguration of the Kings of Connaught, as stated to be used at Cairn-free, in the present County Roscommon, with which Edmund Spencer's account exactly coincides; "They use to place him, that shall be their Captain, upon a stone, always reserved for that purpose, and placed commonly upon a hill, in some of which I have seen engraven a foot, which, they say, was the measure of their first Captain's foot, whereon he standing receives an oath, to preserve all the former ancient customs of the country inviolable and to deliver up the succession peaceably to his tanist, and then had a wand delivered to him by some whose proper office that is, after which, descending from the stone, he turneth himself round, thrice forward and backward."

"The sons of Milesius came into Ireland about this time," a period which the Four Masters compute as A. D. 3500. Concurring external testimonies of this eastern colonization, through Spain, so minutely detailed in native songs, legends, and tales, and so long and so fondly regarded as of pre-eminent national interest, are given at considerable length in an "Essay on the Ancient History, &c., of Ireland," written by the compiler of this work, and published in the sixteenth volume of the Royal Irish Academy Transactions. Such, indeed, was the general faith in the tradition, that it is embodied, even to the names of the leaders, Heber and Heremon, in an Irish Act of Parliament, of the 11th year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth.

The Milesian adventurers, having achieved the conquest of the island, divided the country between them; and the Four Masters record sundry localities which they cleared of woods, communications which they opened, causeways they constructed, and forts they raised; while, during their dynasty, many lakes are stated as having originated, as Lough Ke, Lough Allen, Lough Foyle, &c., and rivers to have burst out, as the Suck, the Brosna, &c. At length Heremon, by survivorship, acquired the sole dominion, about which time, it would appear, the Picts, landing in Leinster, sought a settlement, but were repulsed, whereupon they removed to Scotland, bringing with them wives from the Milesian tribes, then called Scots, facts which are fully confirmed in the Ecclesi-

astical History of Venerable Bede (chap. i.) "In Heremon's time," add the Four Masters, "his wife, Tea, ordered a magnificent mount to be erected in his honour, that on his death he might be buried there, as well as his successors in the government thereafter; and on this mount she caused a fort to be constructed, and a stone of commemoration to be erected, whence, as from her, this hill was called Tea-mor-rath, now Tara, and in it was herself afterwards buried.

The line of succession of Irish kings, from Heremon, is distinctly given in the Annals of the Four Masters. During the reign of one of those (the seventh) Tighernmas, they relate several battles fought by him with the rival race of Heber, while, with more attention to the arts of peace, he prescribed some sumptuary regulations for his people, and caused gold and silver to be worked in the woods east of the Liffey, and shaped into lunettes and torques, until, in A. M. 3656, attempting to introduce idolatry into Ireland, he, in the practice of its worship, was, with many of his subjects, struck dead; from which time the sacrilegious rites were discontinued. His successor, Eochaid, is celebrated by the same annalists, for having improved upon the ordinances of Tighernmas for a distinction in the colours of the Irish dresses, by which every grade of society could be classified. Enna, the fourteenth in this royal descent, is said to have cast silver shields, from mines at Argadross near the River Nore, with orna-

ments for horses. The seventeenth, Fiachadh, had an Irish cognomen, signifying "of the white flowers," on the tradition, that in his time there grew abundance of white flowers, which the inhabitants squeezed into cups, and used the juice as wine. To his immediate successor, Munamon, is referred the introduction of collars of gold, to be worn by kings and queens, so many of which, as of the other ornaments alluded to, have been discovered through the country; while his son, Aildergodh, directed that the chiefs of Ireland should wear golden rings. The twentieth in this succession, Ollamh Fodhla, is pre-eminently projected from the line of kings, as one who, upon his accession, A. M. 3883, established the Fes, or Parliament of Tara, promulgated laws, founded seminaries, revised and corrected the existing historical traditions, subdued the wild passions of his subjects, and, by his wisdom and learning, reformed them to a just and gentle disposition. Remote posterity has so far recognized the merits thus attributed to him, as to establish his medallion bust in the series of legislators, that adorns the dome of the Irish courts of justice, placing it, with chronological accuracy, between those of Moses and Alfred. The reign of Fiachadh, the twenty-fourth king, is commemorated as the period, when wells were first opened for supply of water; while, in the last year of his reign, A. M. 3991, another portentous pestilence raged over the country.

"The fifth age commences."

This, the next notice in the Annals of Boyle, refers to that division of the eras of the world, which the Irish annalists adopted. The first was from Adam to Noah; the second from Noah to Abraham; the third from Abraham to David; the fourth from David to the captivity of the Jews; and the fifth extended thence to the birth of Christ; it, therefore, according to their calculation, commenced after A. M. 4000, and, accordingly, the ensuing notice simply states,

“The battle of Monatrogad”(a);

(a) This locality is, in the Annals of the Four Masters, defined to be in Cinneachta, a territory synonymous with Magh Breagh, extending from the Boyne to the Liffey, while Gilla Coeman, in his “*Carmen Metricum*,” more explicitly names it as Mona-Truim-trogad, i. e. the bog of Trim of the Bridge, thus clearly identifying it with Trim, in the County Meath, a place which, by the monkish writers, was called Ath-Truim, the ford of Trim. An abbey was founded here, in the first year of St. Patrick’s mission, and the place became subsequently one of the twelve rural deaneries within the Diocese of Meath. In 1128, Conor O’Melaghlin, assisted by the forces of Ulster, burned this town, which, as the Annals of Ulster add, was situated within the territory of Magh Breagh. In 1143 and 1155, it again suffered from conflagrations. In 1173, Hugh de Lacy, having obtained from Henry the Second a grant of Meath, with the town of Trim, constituted this a Palatine borough, which his son Walter after incorporated. Hugh also erected a castle here “environed with a large and deep ditch, which, being furnished and completely garnished, he departed for England, leaving the same in the custody of Hugh Tyrrel. The King of Connaught, thereupon, in order to destroy it, assembled all the forces he could make, the principal of his com-

a battle which was fought, according to the Four Masters, in A. M. 4169, by Siorna, the 27th King

manders being O'Flahertie; Mac Dermot, of Moylurg; O'Kelly, of Hy Maine; O'Dowde; O'Shaughnessie, of Poltileban, &c. Hugh Tyrrel being advertised of their movement, despatched messengers to Earl Strongbow, beseeching him to come to his aid, in compliance with which the Earl assembled his forces, and marched towards Trim, but Tyrrel, seeing the enemy nearer at hand, and finding himself too weak to make resistance against their multitudes, abandoned the castle and burned it, which, when the Irish perceived, and how that was done to their hands which they intended to have done by force, they returned towards their own countries. The Earl, on his way, hearing of the catastrophe, nevertheless marched on, but when he came to Trim, he neither found castle nor house to lodge in, wherefore he made no stay, but pursuing the enemy, slew 150, when he returned to Dublin, and Hugh Tyrrel to the ruined Castle of Trim, to re-edify it before De Lacy's return from England" (Regan). In July of the year 1210, King John, on the occasion of his second visit to Ireland, spent two days here; but it would appear the castle was not then fitted for his reception, and his mandates while there, are dated as from "Pratum subtus Trim." Soon after his departure the Grey Friary was founded here, and in 1258, an arrangement was entered into respecting the advowson of the church of St. Patrick of Trim, between the Bishop of Meath and Geoffrey de Geneville, afterwards the great statesman and favourite of Edward the First, and who, by marrying the sister and co-heiress of Walter de Lacy, had become Lord of half Meath, the moiety that accrued to him being distinguished as the Lordship or Liberty of Trim, from this place, the *caput Baronie*, and the seat of the castle, where the Courts were held. The other moiety of Meath passed, with the second sister, to John de Verdon, Baron of Dundalk. The above Geoffrey, about the year 1263, is said to have founded the Dominican friary here, where a remarkable synod was held in 1291, for the purpose of promoting and strength-



of the Milesian dynasty, and stated, in the Metrical Poem of Gilla Coemhan, to be the contemporary of

ening the powers of the Church (De Burgo). In 1308, the aforesaid De Geneville became a friar in the Dominican monastery here, resigning his lordship to the then rightful heir, Lord Roger de Mortimer. This little town was, however, at this period, more especially distinguished by the rival court held there by Richard Earl of Ulster, the most powerful of the Irish nobility, and whose influence had frequently been treated by the King as superior to that of the Viceroy. Here he received his followers with a parade and ostentation alike offensive and alarming, feasting his attendants with all the splendour of a sovereign, and actually affecting to confer the honour of knighthood. It was, nevertheless, but the natural result of appointing a weak-minded, though a gallant and courageous vicegerent, to control one, who reigned paramount in the hearts and wishes of the Irish people; enough to add, the unfortunate Piers de Gaveston was, in this instance, Lord Lieutenant. The Earl even threatened him with open hostilities, but, before their jealousies could produce any violent effect, the favourite was suddenly recalled. In 1314, Lord Geoffrey de Geneville died, and was interred in the Dominican friary here, as was his son in ten years afterwards. In 1317, King Robert Bruce, and Edward, his brother, came with an army to the vicinity of Trim, where, under covert of a wood, they continued for a week, or more, to refresh their men, then suffering severely from fatigue and famine. On Sunday in Easter month, 1318, say the Irish annalists, John de Lacy was removed a prisoner from Dublin Castle to Trim, for his trial. His sentence was, to be starved, but, according to Cox, Mortimer, inflicting the "*peine forte et dure*," caused him to be pressed to death, because he would not plead to the indictment against him. In 1350, Roger de Mortimer had a confirmatory grant of the Castle of Trim, with sundry liberties, privileges, and royalties. In 1368, the Abbey and Dominican friary were destroyed by fire, while, in 1393, De Mortimer had a royal privilege of tolls, to be applied in improving and

Nebuchadnezzar; it was won over some of the descendants of Heber, who sought to alter the succes-

fortifying the town. In 1399, on the news of the hostile landing and progress of the Duke of Lancaster in England reaching King Richard, then in Ireland, he cast the Duke's son, who was of his suite, into the Castle of Trim, thus associating to future time, the still fine remains of that fortress with the history of the royal enthusiast, the hero of Agincourt. In 1407 and 1416, Parliaments were held here, as was a third in 1446, on which latter occasion, amongst other Statutes of more national importance, it was enacted, with the object of amending the appearance and condition of the people, that the English should not wear their beards after the Irish fashion, nor the Irish use shirts coloured with saffron. In the following year a plague raged violently here, and carried off many persons; in two years after which Richard Duke of York (father of Edward the Fourth), while Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, resided here for some time, the Palatinate of Meath being then vested in him. In 1460, a mint was, by the King's command, set up in the Castle of Trim, when silver and brass money were coined, of which several specimens have been found, and are in the cabinets of the curious. In 1463, 1473, and 1474, many (unprinted) Acts were passed by the Irish legislature, in reference to the manor and ecclesiastical houses of Trim, and Parliaments were subsequently held here in 1484, 1485, 1487, and 1491. In 1488, the Abbot of Trim received the royal pardon for having been concerned in the unnatural rebellion raised on behalf of Lambert Simnel, and at the same time, Sir Richard Edgecumbe took the homage of various gentry of the Pale at Trim. In seven years afterwards the Lordship of Trim, with all its liberties, was annexed to the Crown by Act of the Legislature. In 1542, another Parliament was held here. In the civil war of the next century Trim was taken by Sir Charles Coote (May, 1642), the Irish, however, surprized it at break of the following day, when Coote, issuing from the town on the sentinel's alarm, met, and routed his opponents, but was himself killed at the close of the

sion to the kingdom. Roteacht, the immediate successor of Siorna, is said to have led in the use of chariots or cars in Ireland. From him a melancholy continuance of kings, each slain by his successor, brings the history down to Eadhna Dearg (the 40th king), who is said to have re-established a mint at Argadross, and in whose reign another visitation of plague destroyed the inhabitants, and amongst them their Sovereign. In A. M. 4415, Oilioll Fionn, the 49th King of the Milesian dynasty, fell at

“The Battle of Odva”(a).

action. In 1649, after the storming of Drogheda, the town surrendered to Cromwell, disregarding the instructions given by the Marquis of Ormonde, that they should destroy the place rather than suffer it to fall into the hands of that leader. In 1734, Richard Colley, the first of his family who assumed the name of Wellesley, represented this Borough in the Irish Parliament, until elevated to the peerage, with the title of Baron Mornington. For fuller particulars concerning this town, its castle, and noble ecclesiastical remains, the reader is referred to the excellent “Notices” of the town, by the Rev. Richard Butler, its present vicar.

(a) Odva or Odda, gives name to a parish now called Odder, situated two miles south of Tara. According to the Annals of Boyle, this locality was, in A. D. 1069, the scene of another battle. In the twelfth century a nunnery was founded here, in honour of St. Brigid, for Regular Canonesses of the Order of St. Augustin, to whom Pope Celestine the Third granted, in 1195, a confirmation of their possessions. Several cells in Meath were subservient to this house, and on its surrender, at the time of the Dissolution, it was found seised of upwards of 1300A. of profitable land in that county, besides houses, mills, &c. There was also an Augustinian monastery founded here in the twelfth century, by a member of the Barnewall family.

Passing over various intermediate reigns, of which little more than their respective commencement, duration, and close, is related in the Annals (thereby suggesting no small proof of the antiquity of those Chronicles), the accession of Cimbaoth, as the 56th of the Milesian line, is celebrated by the Four Masters for "the just and good administration that then prevailed throughout all Ireland." "He it was," they add, "who in A. M. 4532, erected that palace of Eamania, near Armagh, from whence he and his successors were proud to take title, down to the time of its destruction in the beginning of the fourth century. His reign is further remarkable as being that, from which the most candid and learned historian, Tigernach, dates the era of authentic Irish history, thereby rejecting, as of doubtful authority, all heretofore noticed. Its commencement, according to his synchronism, was in the 18th year of Ptolemy, and hence he traces the "Kings of Eamania," through a succession of thirty-one princes. Continuing however the General History,

"Hugony 'the Great,' son of Hugh the Red, began his reign,"

according to the Four Masters, in A. M. 4567. He is ranked as the 59th of the Milesian kings, and was son, as above mentioned, of Hugh, the 54th king. The Masters record that he merited his title, from having successfully carried his arms into foreign lands, even to the Tuscan sea. He is also said to

have modified a distracting pentarchy, under whose subdivision the country had for some time suffered, and, in truth, continued more or less to suffer, until the English invasion. A line of Kings, whose destinies, like many of the previous monarchs, were closed, each by the hand of his successor, advances the history to the next notice in the Annals of Boyle.

“Fergus was slain by Angus, the enlarger of Tara(*a*), at that place.”

(*a*) Tara, contracted from Teach-mor-rath, i. e., the house of the great hill, or, “the great rath of Tea,” as before suggested, is situated near Navan, in the County Meath, and still commands such a royalty of prospect, not, in the modern parlance, of counties, but over subject provinces, as well marked it for the early selection of the seat of the Irish Kings, which it continued to be from the establishment of the Milesian dynasty. Here were they inaugurated, here were their Parliaments, or Fes, assembled, and their laws promulgated, until the sixth century; nor are there wanting on the face of the hill, earthworks, and fosses, and causeways, indicative of the importance and resort of this locality. Here St. Patrick, soon after his landing in Ireland, strengthened by heaven, appeared before the Pagan monarch and his court, when by his preaching, he induced the miraculous conversion of the land. At the close of the sixth century, it ceased to be a royal residence, but the Kings continued to be styled in the Annals, as of Tara, wherever they dwelt. In the tenth century (for in the topographical notices of this work, it is proposed to deduce from the periods where they are respectively appended, all historic associations that throw interest over the localities, to the latest date), Melaghlín, then King of Meath, here engaged the Danes, and, by a signal overthrow of their army, facilitated their utter destruction at the ensuing battle of Clontarf. Some thousands of the Ostmen

Angus thus became, in A. M. 4816, the 73rd King of Ireland, of the Milesian dynasty, Fergus having

are stated to have perished on this occasion, with their principal leaders, amongst whom was Reginald, son of their King, Anlaffe, who was so affected by the catastrophe, that, in the following year, he made a sorrowful pilgrimage to Iona, where he died, overcome with grief. In 1001, Brian Boromhe marched, with a formidable army, to Tara, and there, on the inauguration ground of her ancient monarchs, received the homage of their last legitimate successor, and was by him acknowledged the supreme Sovereign of all Ireland, the remains of the royal seat here, were at the same time burned to the ground, a desolation the more practicable, as, in truth, its greatness consisted in the arrangement of perishable materials: trunks of trees driven into the earth, connected with woven osiers and wicker work, lined with rushes and mats, and covered, perhaps, with fern or heath. This part of the country was, like most others of Ireland, in those days, dark with timber, and, as forests were then only valuable, if at all, on account of their acorns and beech-mast (the Saxons only estimated a tree by the number of hogs that could find food under it), it is not to be wondered at that a material, so otherwise worthless, should be as eagerly appreciated, as it was obviously adapted for architecture. Immediately previous to the English invasion, Roderic O'Connor, then King of Ireland, held, in 1167, a convention of the States, at Tara, accompanied with all the ancient observances and honours; but other authorities locate this assembly in Athboy. In 1172, Henry the Second transferred to Hugh de Lacy, this, the ancient patrimony of the Kings of Ireland, with the whole Palatinate of Meath, its ancient mensal appanage; Tara is not, thenceforth, projected to notice, for centuries. In 1540, O'Neill, the actual Sovereign of Ulster, in conjunction with some Irish chiefs, invaded the English Pale, and, before any opposition could be organized against him, had penetrated as far as Tara, around which he collected great spoil. Returning northward, he was, however, intercepted and defeated at the pass of Bellahoe.

been the 72nd. The reign of the 80th, Breasal Boidava, was remarkable for a long continuance of distemper amongst the cattle. A successor of his, Eochaidh, surnamed Feidlioch, i. e. "the Sigher," the 85th King in that succession, is the individual to whom the annalists attribute the erection of a royal residence at Rath-Croghan, near Elphin. He is stated, in the Irish synchronisms, as a contemporary of Julius Cæsar, and his immediate successor in the monarchy was another Eochaidh, bearing the cognomen "of the graves," having been the first in whose reign burial under mounds was superseded by ordinary graves.

The next notice in the *Annals of Boyle* is,

"The year of the Incarnation of Christ, according to Dionysius,"

i. e. Dionysius Exiguus. The *Annals of Boyle* do not mention the year, or the king's reign in which the event occurred, but the former is stated by the *Four Masters* as A. M. 5200, their computations ap-

In 1593, a general hosting of those bound to do military service in Ireland, was held at Tara. Amongst those, who then attended, were Sir Henry Colley, of Castle-Carberry, an ancestor of the Duke of Wellington; Sir Edward Moore, ancestor of the Marquis of Drogheda; Sir John Grace, Baron of Courtstown, &c. In the unfortunate civil war of 1641, the Lords and gentry of the county Meath, on the summons of their Sheriff, assembled over the hill of Tara, to devise their answer to the Lords Justices. In the Rebellion of 1798, this hill was one of the encampments of the deluded insurgents, until dispersed, with considerable loss, by the forces of Captains Preston and Mulloy.

proaching nearly to the calculation of the Septuagint; and, from the 25th of March in that year of the incarnation, rather than from the year of the Saviour's birth, many of the Irish annalists commence the Christian era. The Annals of Ulster, accordingly, following this rule, anticipate the common era by one year, down to 1014, after which they coincide with it; so, for the most part, do the Annals of Innisfallen, but those of the Four Masters varied, from other considerations, yet more widely, being sometime five, and afterwards two years behind common time, until the same period, when Flan, head professor of Monasterboyce, reformed the chronology, and adjusted it to the one common standard, as testified by his "Synchrona," an ancient copy of which, on vellum, is in the Stowe collection. By this authority the monarch of Ireland, at the time of the incarnation, was Conary the Great, the 89th king of the Milesian race. His reign, however, is shewn to have commenced several years previous to that glorious event; and, while it was the longest, was also the happiest and most abundant. The sea, say the Four Masters, during every year thereof, gave up abundance of fish, the trees were loaded with fruit, the nuts were weighty on the banks of the rivers, the herds wandered freely through the country, by reason of the prevalence of peace and order; there was no storm or tempest throughout the whole period of his government, circumstances, upon all which the religious historians of early times dwell with



enthusiasm and gratitude, as indicative of the advent of the Lord, who came to teach truth to the nations of the earth, to preach to them the commandments of piety, brotherly love, and mutual charity, and lead them in the way of eternal peace.

“ In the following year died Concullan.”

And so says Tigernach, referring it to the second year of the Christian era, while, without adopting all the enthusiastic legends of the bards, as to “Cuchullin, chief of Erin’s wars,” he certainly does style him “*fortissimus heros Scotorum*,” says he was knighted in the seventh year of his age; that he had been engaged in that war, which for an interval alone disturbed the halcyon times of Conary, and which is known by the name of the “*Tain-bo-Cuailgne*,” originating, as it did, in a spoiling of the cattle of Collon, in the County Louth, as more fully shewn in the “*History of Drogheda*.” Tigernach also remarks, that he was slain at the above year, in the 27th year of his age, while the Danish historians relate invasions of Ulster from their country, at this time, which might afford Concullan a more meritorious opportunity of evincing his courage, and which Mr. Mac Pherson, in his “*Ossian’s Poems*,” might gladly adopt, as more suited to the poetical machinery of that beautiful imposition. The death of Concullan is followed by the notice,

“ Died Emri, the wife of Concullan,”

and the next records,

"The battle of Almhain(*a*), where Etersoll the Blind was slain by Nuadhat Neecht. . . . . The battle of Cliach(*b*), where fell Nuadhat Neecht, slain by Conary. . . . . Conary reigned twenty or forty years."

The Annals of Boyle, in detailing these events, as subsequent to the Incarnation, appear guilty of an anachronism, as, according to the best authorities, these occurred before the Christian era. Etersoll was the 87th, Nuadhat the 88th of the Milesian dynasty, and Conary the Great the 89th; the length of Conary's reign is also, as here stated, much short of the most accredited accounts, which extend its duration beyond the Christian era.

(*a*) Almhain, now called Dun-Ailline, was anciently the royal seat of the kings of Leinster, and in the old romances is styled "the great and spacious Almain of Leinster;" its earthworks are situated about a mile north of old Kilcullen, in the County Kildare, and present the largest fort in Ireland, with the exception of that at Eamania, near Armagh, its rival in the pentarchy. A genuine Irish tale, preserved in the manuscripts of Trinity College, "Lomnochtan of Slieve Liffe," opens with a vision of Fingal, i. e. Fion Mac Cumhal, as, dreaming that, after the labours of the chase, he lay reposing in sleep on "the fair Almain of Spears." In 687, as mentioned in a subsequent part of the Annals of Boyle, another battle was fought here.

(*b*) Cliach, *alias* Ara-cliach, is that district of Tipperary, bordering on Limerick, now known as the barony of Owney and Ara, it was the ancient inheritance of a branch of the noble family of O'Brien, distinguished thence as the O'Briens' Ara. Hither, say the biographers of St. Patrick, that Apostle repaired, immediately after he had established Cashel as the supreme see of Munster, and here made many converts.

“ In the twentieth year after the death of Octavian Augustus, Concobar Mac Nessa died, and Glassne his son reigned.”

Tigernach, accordingly, fixes the event at A.D. 33. This Concobar had been the subordinate prince of Eamania, was succeeded as above, and, on the decease of Glassne,

“ In the fourth year from the death of Tiberius, Irial Glunmar, son of Conall Cearnach, reigned in Eamania for forty years.”

The reference to the death of Tiberius, marks the commencement of Irial's reign as in A.D. 41, and so Tigernach places it, while the Annalists of Boyle, returning from the affairs of Eamania, to which they had thus digressed, record, as next in chronological order, the closing event of the reign of the before-mentioned Conary ;

“ Storming of the fortress of the two caves, against Conary the Great, when ensued an *interregnum* of five years, and Ireland was without a king.”

This demolition of the “Bruighen-da-dearc,” which is translated in the above epithet, and which was theretofore one of the fortresses at Tara, is also stated by Tigernach, as occurring in the year after Irial Glunmar's succession, and both Annals agree in giving, as their next ensuing notice,

“ Mark wrote his Gospel,”  
necessarily implying, that Tigernach considered Co-

nary the Great as having survived the birth-time of the Saviour, for St. Mark's Gospel was written at Rome, in A. D. 64 (but twenty years earlier, according to Tigernach). The words, "Ireland was without a king," mean the absence of supreme authority by the death of Conary, on which event, the peace and allegiance of his country were, for a time, dissolved, and the government split into a distracting pentarchy. At length

"Lughaid of the Red Spots, succeeding to the throne, reigned in Ireland twenty-six years."

This was the 90th king of the Milesian succession, and during his reign, A. D. 65, according to Tigernach, occurred that inundation, which deposited the waters of Lough Neagh over the pre-existing territory of Corofóiche. It is well worthy of notice, that Giraldus Cambrensis, who wrote his observations on Ireland within a century after Tigernach's death, and who, evidently, from the context of his narratives, had that Irish historian's work before him, fully adopts this origin of Lough Neagh, adding, what might appear a conclusive refutation of any theory, that would postpone the erection of those interesting edifices, the round towers, to a period beyond that of the conversion of Ireland to Christianity; "it is no improbable testimony to this event," says Giraldus, "that the fishermen of that sheet of water plainly behold the religious towers (*turres ecclesiasticas*'), which, according to the custom of the

country, are narrow, lofty, and round, immersed under the waters, and they frequently shew them to strangers passing over them and wondering at their purposes (*'reique causas admirantibus'*).” In regard to the round tower controversy, it is not essential to establish, that such an inundation did actually happen; it was matter of more than popular tradition; it was verified in the most trustworthy history of Ireland; and there was its date assigned to A.D. 65, nearly four centuries previous to the mission of St. Patrick for the conversion of that country, yet Cambrensis, aware, of course, of the era of Christianity in this country, but adopting, also, the reported origin of Lough Neagh, expressly infers, that these towers were of such antiquity, that some of them were overwhelmed in that visitation; that the fishermen of that lake actually distinguished them under the water, and repeatedly shew them to strangers, and he styles them *“ecclesiasticas turres,”* towers for ecclesiastical purposes, meaning, by necessary inference, for the uses of some Pagan worship, general at that retrospective date, though he uses a term which is now ordinarily attributed to Christianity, while he adds, that they had been built according to a fashion peculiar to Ireland (*“more patrio”*), suggesting a style as of its oldest inhabitants; and here may be recalled to the reader’s attention the early notices, as in the most remote pagan times, of “the Island of the Tower,” *ante*, p. 2, “the Field of the Towers,” *ante*, p. 3; and

these epithets are recognized and adopted in the Annals of the Four Masters; the tower "*tuir*" is there reiterated, and accordingly, through all time, are they found styled towers and not belfries, or by any other name, until converted to such secondary uses. Giraldus, a Catholic prelate, saw them, with wonder, in the twelfth century, and he calls them "*turres*;" were they belfries, he would naturally have termed them "*campanilia*;" he frequently speaks of bells, "*campanas*," of various metals, as of use in the earliest period of Christianity in Ireland, and even has a chapter on bells, "*campanas bajulas*," in which he mentions the veneration in which they were held in that country, as well as in Wales and Scotland, but no where is he so inconsistent as to connect those bells with the round towers; in truth, as has been justly observed by Dr. Milner, "none of those towers is large enough for a single bell to swing round in it, and from the whole of their form and dimensions, and from the smallness of the apertures in them, they are rather calculated to stifle, than to transmit to a distance, any sound that is made in them." Indeed, it would be hard to conjecture, why the first Christians in Ireland, while they built their churches of such frail materials as wicker and wood, would erect such everlasting belfries of stone, when the object could be better effectuated by suspending the bell from a forest tree. The extraordinary circumstance of their doorways being always raised from eight to sixteen feet above

the level of the ground, seems an additional self-evidence against their being belfries, and the fact of there being lofty stone steeples, for that purpose, attached to some of the churches, near which round towers are also found, as at Brechin, at Cormac's chapel on the Rock of Cashel, at Lusk, at Swords, &c., evinces that the Irish clergy of the middle ages did not recognize, even from tradition, the use of the round towers as belfries. The surmise, that they were for places of security and retreat in danger, is met by their small capacity for any such effective accommodation; nor is the opinion more tenable, that they were for defensive keeps, or depositories for the MSS., relics, plate, and muniments of the abbeys to which they were annexed; the general destruction of these valued pledges by the Danes, while the round towers remained unassailable, except by lightning or earthquake, wholly repels the inference. Doctor Milner, and other advocates of their Christian uses, insist they were built for anchorets, of an order that are called "inclusi," and who are, by these authorities, said to have commenced their vocation in Ireland in A.D. 732; but the pillars of the Stylites, which are cited as their models, are quite different and diminished structures, and it is wild and improbable to imagine such edifices, raised so durable, so lofty, so divided into stages, for a single anchoret, or even for a group of solitary recluses; why would the windows be so almost universally adjusted to the cardi-

nal points for such an intention? Were they originally constructed, or even, in his time, universally used for any known Christian purposes, Giraldus, the Bishop of St. David's, would be sure to claim, and classify them; but even then, upwards of five centuries since, he ventured not so to appropriate them; doubtless, in the assurance, that from their exclusive localization in Ireland and Scotland, they were for the uses of a religion, peculiar to the former country and that part of the latter, which was colonized from Ireland a short time before the age of St. Patrick, and where, it is remarkable, that two, and only two, occur, as if vouching the fact of that colonization having taken place, when the rites, for which the round towers were erected in the mother country, were on the decline. If they were the erections of any other faith, common to other parts of Europe—Druidic, Danish, or Christian—it may well be asked, would they not appear in Mona, in Scandinavia, or in the rest of Christendom? Nor can the constant occurrence of houses of Christian worship near them, militate against the theory here advanced, as the early missionaries judiciously selected the scenes of Pagan rites for their own purer uses, not only, as it were, to exorcise them of gentilism, but that they might thereby attract their new converts to worship the true God, in the very places where they had assembled to offer their deluded devotion to false objects; and hence it may well be accounted for, that the



ancient Christian structures, humble and perishable as they were in the comparison, yet always occur in the immediate shadow of the round towers (that at Antrim, perhaps, alone excepted), and that Christian emblems appear inserted in, or carved upon them. Neither is it to be forgotten, that the Annals of Ulster, another deservedly high native authority, mention the fall of no less than fifty-seven of them, in consequence of a dreadful earthquake in A.D. 448, only sixteen years after the establishing of Christianity over the face of the country; an interval in which it is utterly improbable, that even if the Christian missionaries had enjoined here a style and use of architecture, which they had never seen or known to be adopted elsewhere, there yet could have been erected, in the interval, so many structures, of a nature, that, while they have for centuries resisted the impression of time, seem destined yet to survive many noble structures of modern architecture. The author of these volumes has, in his "Essay on the Ancient History, &c., of Ireland" (published in 1830), pp. 80, &c., 133, &c., very fully detailed the evidences, which induced him to conclude they were erected in the Pagan age of Ireland, for the preservation and solemn exhibition of that censer of sacred fire, which, while the worship of the sun was the prevalent creed in this country, was the emblem of his light and purity, a symbol of that noblest object in the firmament, which was deemed, if not the Deity, at least

the throne of his glory(*a*); and surely it was a simple and exalted worship, in comparison with the heathen rites which polluted the banks of the Tiber and the Ilyssus. In the oriental fire temples, it is known that the chamber of fire was not accessible to any persons except the priests, a fact that would seem to explain the reason, why the doorways of the Irish pillar-towers were raised, above the level of the ground and danger of pollution.

This branch of the subject induces the insertion here of a very singular passage from Diodorus Siculus, which seems strongly confirmatory of sun worship in Ireland: "Among the writers of antiquity," says that historian (vol. i. pp. 158-9), "Hecateus and some others allege, that there is an island in the ocean, over against Gaul, to the north, and not inferior in size to Sicily, that the Hyperborei inhabit it, and that the soil is so rich and fruitful, and the climate so congenial, that they mow there twice in

(*a*) In the Annals of the Four Masters, at the year 995, occurs a notice, which Doctor O'Connor translates, "Armagh burned by lightning, its houses and stone churches, and its belfries, and its *celestial towers*, were all destroyed; Ireland never saw, nor will such an awful visitation occur, to the day of judgment." The manner of mentioning "*celestial towers*" here, might, at the first glance, induce an inference favourable to the original uses of the round towers, as above assigned; but, as the passage seems one of the few mistranslations with which the Doctor can be charged, in his extensive and laborious works, any confirmation of the theory thence is repudiated; it can only be reasonably advanced for the triumph of a learned etymological refutation.

the year. It is affirmed that Latona was born there, and that, therefore, the worship of Apollo is preferred to that of any other god; and, as they daily celebrate this deity with songs of praise, and worship him with the highest honours, they are considered as peculiarly the priests of Apollo, whose sacred grove, and singular temple, of round form, are there. They have a city also consecrated to this divinity; most of the citizens are harpers, who, striking their harps in the temple, sing sacred hymns to the god, in which his actions are proclaimed with suitable honour. Their language is that peculiar to the Hyperboreans, and they are attached to the Greeks by a singular affection, confirmed from old times; the Athenians and Delians are the principal objects of this regard, the ground of which, according to the people, is, that as some Greeks formerly sailed over to the Hyperborean regions, and left offerings, which were noted in Greek letters, so Abaris voyaged thence to Greece<sup>(a)</sup>, and renewed with the Delians the tie of ancient friendship and acquaintance. They likewise aver, that the moon is seen from this island, that it appears not so distant from the earth, and seems to present in its face cer-

(a) The suggestion might appropriate to Ireland the classic wanderings of this, the recorded friend and instructor of Pythagoras, and whom the description of Himerius, as to his dress, manners, country, and philosophy, seems to identify with that country.

tain projections like the mountains of our world; also that the god Apollo himself visits the island once in nineteen years, in which space the stars complete their revolutions, and return into their old positions, and hence, this cycle of nineteen years is called by the Greeks 'the great year.' This deity, when he does so appear, is said to sing with the harp at night, and to stimulate the dances continually, from the vernal equinox to the rising of the Pleiades, delighting himself in hearing the commemoration of his own successful actions." When the position of this island is considered "to the north, over against Gaul," its size "not inferior to Sicily;" the excellent quality of the land; the healthfulness of its climate; the alleged sun worship in round temples, of which so many exist over the country; the musicians, on what has been deemed, from the remotest antiquity, the national instrument of Ireland; the peculiarity of language; all those concurring circumstances add considerable weight to the opinion, that the island alluded to must have been Ireland, to which may be added the testimony of St. Patrick himself, in his Confession (published in the first volume of the "*Rerum Hibernicarum Scriptores*"): "For that sun," says the Apostle, "which we behold, is ordained, by the will of God, to rise daily for us, but never shall it rule, nor shall its splendour outlast, but all those who adore it shall in misery and wretchedness fall into punishment." The above notice, from Diodorus, is also most interesting

in the astronomical acquirements which it attributes to the inhabitants of this island, the striking mention of the approximation of the moon, and the appearance of mountains thence discernible on its disk; and, above all, the evident allusion to the cycle of nineteen years, by which Meton, some centuries previously, endeavoured to adjust the course of the sun to that of the moon, and to make the solar and lunar years begin at the same point of time.

The shape and purpose of these Irish towers are additional demonstration of the premised Oriental colonization. Their models are the same as those of the Mahometan minarets, that is to say, these fire temples of the Magi of the East, introduced by Zoroaster, and which, according to Prideaux, he caused to be built wherever he came: "for whereas hitherto they had erected their altars, in which their sacred fire was kept, on the tops of hills and high places, in the open air, and there performed all the offices of their religious worship, when often, by rain, tempests, and storms, the sacred fire was extinguished, and the holy offices of their religion interrupted and disturbed; for the preventing of this he prescribed, that, wherever any of these altars were erected, temples should be built over them, that so the sacred fire might be the better preserved; . . . not that they worshipped the fire, for this they always disowned, but God in the fire." Strabo speaks of these edifices in Cappadocia, calling them "*Pyrætheia*," i. e. fire temples. Various other travellers and geographers

notice them in Asia; they are said to be frequent in Caucasus. Hanway, writing of four which he found in Persia, says, "it seemed inconsistent that the Persians suffered these temples to remain unmolested, after the abolition of a religion, which they now esteem grossly idolatrous; but they are made of the most durable materials, being rotundas of about thirty feet in diameter, raised in height to a point near 120 feet." Lord Valentia gives drawings of two, which he saw near Bhaugulpore, in Hindostan, and they present, as himself remarks, the exact similitude of those of Ireland. The above theory has been since adopted by Mr. Moore, in his history of Ireland, and any opinions, that they were originally constructed for the purposes of a Christian priesthood, seem hitherto unsupported; while it is not denied, that many of the ancient class have been latterly converted to penitentiaries, observatories, and even belfries, notwithstanding their unfitness, and are naturally named, according to such their then present uses, by contemporaneous authors; and that some have been enjoyed as retreats, and depositories for valuables; a passage in the *Four Masters*, *ad ann.* 1097, is relied on as evidence of this use, but that authority shews such appropriation to have occurred only in an emergency, and to have failed in its expected security, as that whole structure was burned to the ground!! Neither is it denied, that some have been capriciously decorated with embattled copings, bas reliefs, and casings in Saxon or Gothic arches,

and that in one instance, the Cathedral of Cashel, a gallery communicates from that fine Christian edifice with the round tower; but it is confidently relied upon, that all those embellishments and appearances are innovations upon the original plan, and of comparatively modern introduction. It is also said, that the precise time of the erection of some few (described, however, as belfries) can be shewn from the Four Masters; as these were annalists of 1630, upwards of four centuries after Cambrensis, this argument requires no further answer: the very facility of now obtaining those few dates shews, such structures could not be the remarkable round towers, of whose era and use there was no tradition in the days of that early historian, nor any discernible solution in the native writers that preceded his day. Round towers have been erected, within the memory of living men, all around Ireland; and, in the adoption of such a line of proof, the future verifiers of dates may raise justifiable misgivings amongst the antiquarians of yet unborn days.

Although this discussion may be thought to have extended beyond its proposed limit, yet would it not be justifiable to conclude it, without mentioning, that in the year 1830, the Royal Irish Academy having proposed a prize, for the best Essay on the origin and uses of the round towers, their advertisement induced five papers, each professing to solve the mystery, and whose merits were thereupon submitted to the decision of the Academy's Council, of which

the writer of these volumes was then a member. Feeling some literary responsibility in the trust thus reposed, he made notes of all the Essays, but, as two were considered entitled to more especial attention, it seems sufficient here to particularize these alone. Of one, as the original is not now forthcoming, he must be understood as speaking only from these notes; but they were full, and, he has no doubt, accurate. It maintained, that these edifices were erected at various periods between the fifth and thirteenth centuries, as belfries and safety repositories for the abbeys; that their architectural construction was adapted for such uses; and Christian emblems, accordingly, sometimes found carved upon them, while passages in the native Annals were relied upon, as recording such to be their appropriation; that the round towers found in the East were but Christian belfries, and those, whose fall is alluded to in the Annals of Ulster, not towers, but "casiols" (of the class mentioned in this work, *ante*, vol. i. p. 73); that the Irish were unacquainted with the use of stone in architecture, until the days of St. Patrick, when bells were also introduced, St. Dagan alone having, as stated, manufactured 300 of them in the sixth century; that the round towers so erected for them, were called thenceforth, for 1000 years, "*cloigh-teach*," i. e. belfries; and lastly, that the architectural style of the towers does not vary from that of the churches which they respectively adjoin, on which assumption this essayist affects, when he determines



the age of the church, to conclude that of the round tower. The second essay (of which a correct copy remains in the Academy MSS., and should be printed) confidently attributed the towers to colonists, votaries of Bouddha, that deity once so generally worshipped over the East, and that in his honour these temples were erected; their religion, this writer considered, might have, in time, degenerated into fire-worship, and the towers been transferred to its rites, while the Christian emblems, admittedly occurring on some, he maintained were but comparatively modern insertions, and he further insisted, that the epithet "*cloighteach*," above mentioned, should be more truly read in the Annals, as "*claicteagh*," signifying, as he says, in the Irish language, a pyramid. It is due to the former essay to state, that the gold medal was awarded to it by the entire council, with the solitary exception of the compiler of this work, who did not consider it equal to the latter, or in any sense argumentative or conclusive; but, as the prize essay is announced by the Royal Irish Academy as at length in progress of publication, under their auspices, in a far more extensive and elaborate range of inquiry, and as its rival was, soon after the decision, printed by the author (the late Mr. Henry O'Brien), in a greatly enlarged, but certainly not improved, form, those interested in this "*veraxa quæstio*" may have an early opportunity of deciding on the merits of the respective theories.

To return to Lughaid of the red spots. This mo-

narch, adds Tigernach, fell in A. D. 79, by his own sword (the first royal suicide on Irish record), "distracted with grief on account of the death of his wife, Dervorgilla, the daughter of a King of Lochlin," a notice which suggests the existence, at that time, of some relations with the regions of the north, very different from those that proved so disastrous to Ireland in future centuries.

"Thirty Kings of Leith-Conn (i. e. Ulster), reigned from the time of Lughaid of the red spots, to Diarmid, the son of Carrill."

This short, digressive glance at the state of government in Ulster, during the interval between the supreme sovereigns named in the text, alludes, thus far, to one member of the then prevalent pentarchy. Munster, too, had its similar succession, as very fully given by Vallancey, down to the days of Brian Boromhe, on the authority of the "Book of Munster," to which latter line it is the more necessary to allude, as about this time it began to contest the right of supremacy, heretofore conceded to the Kings of Tara. The subject led to cruel civil wars, which, after centuries, broke down the controlling power of the old government, introduced Brian Boromhe, in the tenth century, to the throne, transferred it, after him, from the O'Nial to the Connaught dynasty, and ultimately so weakened the energies of the island, as left it an easy conquest to the English king and his Anglo-Norman subjects. Diarmid, the son of Carrill, above

alluded to, will be spoken of hereafter; it is enough, in this place, to say that he was the 124th king of the Milesian succession, and that, according to these Annals, he died in A. D. 545.

“Nero reigns sixteen years; in the tenth year of his reign Irial Glunmar, King of Eamania(a), was slain by Crimthan, surnamed the bold warrior, King of Ireland, whereupon Fícha Findamnas, the son of Irial Glunmar, succeeded his father in Eamania. The Emperor Vespasian dies; Crimthan, the bold warrior, dies.”

The synchronism in the last part of this sentence fixes the death of Crimthan to the year 79, in which Tigernach agrees. This, the 92nd monarch of the Milesian line, appears to have been a monarch of warlike propensities and successful enterprise, both at home and abroad. The Annals of the Four Masters say, that he was slain at his fortress in Howth, after returning from a foreign expedition of great

(a) This royal citadel of those kings of Ulster, whose succession is given in the Annals of Tigernach, was erected two miles west of the present city of Armagh, by that Cimbaoth, from whose time Tigernach dates the credibility of Irish history. Ulster having been the province of this monarch's family, he was particularly assiduous in promoting its reformation and glory, establishing conventions there, similar to those held in Tara, and also instituting a military school. In A. D. 746, a great battle was fought at Eamania, between the O'Neills and Fiachra, King of Ulster, in which the latter was victorious, and, in 987, Brian Boróimhe encamped here, with the object of avenging himself on the people of Ulster, who had then recently despoiled his countrymen. The ruins of Eamania are, even yet, of surprising extent.

celebrity, and from which he brought home much precious spoil, and, in particular, a chariot(*a*) of great value, ornamented with gold; armour inlaid with gold, and in which many shining gems were set; a robe of many colours; a soldier's cloak, with golden clasps: he also brought with him a battle sword, with figures of serpents carved upon it; a shield, with shining sil-

(*a*) It does not appear that the Irish used chariots, as the Britons did, for warlike purposes, but, that they had them for travelling, from a very remote time, is expressly affirmed in their Annals. Those of the Four Masters say, that chariots of four horses were first brought into use by Roteacht, the 28th king of the Milesian succession, and indeed the name of the monarch seems as a cognomen derivable from "rota," or the Celtic word "rhod." The Continuator of Tigernach mention Conall of the swift horses at A. D. 366. Car-borne heroes frequently occur in the Finian poems, and the noble description of the chieftain Cuchullin's, confessedly used upon Irish ground, is a further testimony to the same effect; while, in referring to this beautiful passage of the poems, sought to be attributed to Ossian, there is none other of whose individual authenticity there are said by Sinclair to be so many available proofs. The Annals of Innisfallen (Dublin MS.) make mention of the chariot of Thady, the son of Ceinn, in 254, and the skill of his charioteer; and the same Annalists mention Fathach, one of the joint sovereigns of Ireland, within a few years after, with the epithet "of the chariots." In the chronicles, when they advance into Christian times, yet more frequent notices occur of chariots, as used in travelling, "according to an ancient custom of the country." Adamnan speaks of St. Columba's chariot and charioteer, and furnishes, in another place, evidence of such vehicles being used in battle, where, speaking of the engagement at Monamoiré, in Ulster, he records the escape of Eochaid Laib in his chariot, a proposition which Tigernach confirms, by stating chariots as in use in battle in A. D. 500.

ver studs; a lance, so contrived that no one wounded by it could recover; a sling or catapulta; two hunting dogs coupled with a silver chain, worth 300 cows, and a great quantity of other precious things. This notice of the Four Masters evidently adopts the tradition of the military aid which the Irish people sought to afford to the Britons, when Suetonius Paulinus was inflicting upon them those multiplied severities, that, according to their ancient historians, compelled them to seek refuge from their homes in the comparative repose of Ireland.

“Carpre, surnamed ‘the cat-headed,’ reigned afterwards for five years, but he is not accounted among the kings of Ireland, on account of the deformity of his head. Feradhach Fion-Fechtnach, the son of Crimthan, reigns, during twenty years. At this time flourished Moran, the son of Main, from whom was the collar of Moran.”

The interval of Carpre’s reign was marked, say the Four Masters, with most unhappy afflictions; the crops failed; the rivers were unproductive; the cattle were barren; the trees were so fruitless, that only a single acorn was usually on the oak; while the reign of his successor, Feradhach, the commencement of which Tigernach fixes *ad ann.* 85, was signally contrasted by the prosperity, peace, and plenty, that accompanied it throughout. His cognomen, Fion-Fechtnach, signifying “the pure, just man,” is an eloquent testimony to his character, which, perhaps, was more generally conceded by reason of the exalted impartiality of the decisions of his chief judge Moran.

“After the death of Clement Romanus<sup>(a)</sup>, and during the reign of Trajan, Fiacha Findamnas reigned in Eamania, 26 years, when he died at Tara.”

He was the son and successor of Irial Glunmar, as before mentioned, and the 20th King of Eamania; the events above noted mark his time as the commencement of the second century.

“In the following year Fiacha Find was slain in Tara, by Elim, the son of Conraich.”

This Fiacha was the son of Feradhach Fion-Fecht-

(a) Clement Romanus was converted to the faith by St. Peter or St. Paul, and was so active in their ministry, fearlessly participating in their journeys, labours, and dangers, that St. Jerome and other fathers call him an apostolic man, and St. Paul (*Phil.* iv. 3) styles him his fellow-labourer, and ranks him among those whose names are written in the Book of Life. On the demise of St. Cletus, the second Bishop of Rome, in A. D. 89, St. Clement was placed in the Apostolic chair. In the year 96, after the death of Domitian, he wrote an epistle to the Corinthians, who were lapsing into some heresies; this letter was highly extolled and esteemed in the primitive Church, as an admirable work, and so Eusebius calls it; it was placed in rank next to the canonical books of the Holy Scriptures, and was read with them in the churches. Amongst the errors of the Corinthians was a disbelief of the resurrection of the flesh, which the saint beautifully illustrates as easy to the Almighty, even within the consideration of constantly present earthly operations—the vine shedding its leaves, then budding, spreading again its leaves, first producing sour grapes, then ripe fruit; the morning rising from night, the corn brought forth from seed, &c. In the year 100, the third general persecution was raised, even by Trajan, the more unexpected, the more afflicting, as his reign was, in other respects, so universally famed for justice and moderation, and in that trial of the Church St. Clement appears to have been martyred.

nach, and the 95th king of the Milesian line, of which Elim, his slayer, became the 96th. Fiacha fell in a contest with the provincial kings, headed by the aforesaid Elim, who was King of Ulster; and the Four Masters state, that they did not leave a child of his alive, except Tuathal "in his mother's womb," but that babe lived to revenge his father's massacre. On attaining puberty he fled to North Britain, where, having procured aid from the Picts, and being invited over by the Irish, he landed in his native country, pursued a course of victory into the palace of Tara, and there slew the usurper. On his accession, A. D. 130, he not only revived the Parliament of Tara, but established similar assemblies at Rath Croghan for Connaught, and at Eamania for Ulster; in the former he felt it politic to demand and obtain, from the petty princes and chiefs of the country, their solemn pledges to preserve the inheritance of the crown to his line exclusively. In his time, also, Meath, which occupied the centre of the island, and had been, within a more limited precinct, allocated for the support of royalty, was enlarged by accessions of territory from each of the surrounding provinces, thenceforth held until the English invasion, as the mensal lands of the monarch of Ireland, and within whose extensive circuit, according to the native accounts, there were four royal residences, viz., at Tara; at Tailten, near Kells; Tlachga, near Athboy; and Usneach, near Killare, in the now called County of Westmeath. "A far less creditable sample of his policy was the enormous mulct imposed

by him on the province of Leinster, in revenge for the conduct of its ruler, Achy [against whom he had a well-grounded, but personal, cause of hostility], thus dooming an unoffending people, and their posterity to atone for the crimes of one worthless prince. This oppressive fine, known by the name of 'the Boarian tribute,' was exacted every second year, and continued to be the cause of much confusion and bloodshed, till the year 693, when, in the reign of King Finnacta, through the intercession of St. Moling, it was remitted"(a).

"Tipraide Tirech reigned in Eamania thirty years."

This was the 24th King of Eamania, and Tigernach dates the event at A. D. 182.

"Conn of the Hundred Battles slew Mogh-Nuadhat in Magh Adair"(b).

This warrior king, styled of "the hundred battles," in the language of the bards, by reason of his having reduced the provincial and petty princes, after many conflicts, to an acknowledgement of his supremacy, is accounted the 101st of the Milesian dynasty, and commenced his government, according to the chronology of Tigernach, about the year 177. The Four Masters relate that, in the year of his birth, five leading roads were opened into Tara, a circumstance

(a) Moore's "History of Ireland," vol. i. p. 125.

(b) This, the place of inauguration of the chiefs of the O'Brien sept, as kings of the Dal-Cassians, is still identified in the County Clare.



which they note as having induced prosperity and improvement in the country. One of these roads, the Esker-riadha, dividing Ireland nearly moietywise, became afterwards the line of demarcation agreed upon for the several kingdoms of the above chieftains, Conn and Mogh, and these sections of Ireland were, therefore, hence respectively distinguished as Leath Conn, the northern, and Leath Mogh, the southern half. It is remarkable that this great work of the policy of that day is still traceable by a succession of gravelly hills, from Dublin by Cromlin, and by Esker, near Lucan, to Clonard, thence near Philipstown and Tullamore, to Clonmacnois, and by Ballinasloe to Galway, while the event is yet further confirmed by the testimony of Venerable Bede, who more than once marks an existing distinction, as long before his time, between the Scots of the northern province, and the Scots of the southern part of Ireland, Scots being then the generic name for all the Irish tribes, and for them exclusively. This compromise, as to the extent of their several authorities, did not terminate the jealousies of the rivals, until the above battle closed the career of Mogh Nuadhad. In two years afterwards

“Conn was himself slain at Tuatambros<sup>(a)</sup> Conary, the

(a) Tigernach states that this locality was within the territory of Irrus-Domnan, or Danan, which comprized the whole west of Connaught, from Galway to Belmullet, and which still gives name to the Barony of Erris, in the County Mayo. This line of country was so called, from being the coast where the last of the Danan

kinsman of Conn, reigned eight years according to some. Art reigned thirty-two years."

This Art, the 103rd in the succession of Milesian kings, was the only surviving son of Conn of the Hundred Battles. During his time

"Ogman Mac Fiatach Finel reigns in Eamania. The battle of Cindebrad(a) was fought by the sons of Olill, the poet, and by the three Carbrys, i. e. the sons of Conary, who was himself the son of Luga Lamai, against Luga Mac Conn.

This incident of civil war, referred by Tigernach to the year 218, originated thus: Olill, styled "the poet," who was King of Munster, had banished Luga Mac Conn, a distinguished chieftain, from his province, who thereupon sought shelter in Britain, and obtained aid for the recovery of his alleged rights, in the assertion of which this first battle was fought, and here, Tigernach and the Four Masters say, was slain, amongst others, Dar-eira, "the Druid of the Oaks." The epithet "Druid" does certainly

race took shelter, when driven from dominion by the Milesians, as before alluded to in the text. It was here also Tuathal, the 98th Milesian King of Ireland, above mentioned, landed, with his foreign auxiliaries, to avenge his father's death. In the fourteenth century a bardic school of great celebrity existed in this Erris. In the confiscations consequent upon the civil war of 1641, the barony, having escheated to the Crown, was granted to Sir Robert Vyner, Knight, and three other patentees, with all royalties of mines, and all fisheries, on river, lake, and sea.

(a) The precise situation of this place cannot now be ascertained, possibly the name was a contraction of Cinneachta-Breagh, before mentioned as synonymous with Magh-Breagh, in the County Meath.

occur here in these historians, but the more usual and correct term for the pagan priesthood of the time was "draoi," or "wise men," and sometimes, but more rarely, "magi;" while, in reference to the name of Dar-eira, here given to the alleged Druid, it is a very singular confirmation of his magian faith, that Hyde, in his "Dissertation on the ancient Religion of Persia," says "Dara" there signified a priest.

"The battle of Magh-Mucrum(*a*), fought by Lugad Mac

(*a*) The plain of Macroom, in the Barony of West Muskerry, County Cork, still associates with this historical event, and having a town situated in a healthy opening, surrounded by hills of moderate elevation, and traversed by the River Sullane. In its immediate vicinity are three large pillar stones, raised, according to tradition, to commemorate a hostile engagement there, between Brian Boromhe and the O'Mahonys of Carberry, but it is not improbable that their erection may be antedated to the time of the above battle. The parish church of Macroom was dedicated to St. Colman of Cloyne, and the Castle, situated on a bold eminence near the river, now modernized into a beautiful residence, is thought to have been constructed at the time of King John's visit to Ireland. Its subsequent history is identified with that of the noble family of Mac Carthy, by one of whom it was repaired and beautified in the time of Queen Elizabeth. The son of this individual, Sir Cormac, Lord Muskerry, is mentioned by Camden and other writers, as an active person in Queen Elizabeth's time. Upon the plantation of Munster, in the reign of King James the First, the Lord Muskerry brought over several English Roman Catholic families, as the Hardings, Fields, Terrys, Goulds, and Kents, and planted them in Macroom. In 1602, Sir George Carew, President of Munster, sent Sir Charles Wilmot, with competent numbers of foot and horse, to lie before its castle, nor was it until after a long siege that an accidental fire compelled the garrison to surrender (*Pa-*

Conn, where fell Art, the only son of Conn of the Hundred Battles, and seven sons of Olill the Poet; Lugad slew Art, and Benne the Briton slew Eogan the son of Olill Olum. Lugad Mac Conn reigned in Tara thirty years; Cormac Ul-Fada, the grandson of Conn, reigned forty-two years."

The rapid and melancholy sketch here given of the royal succession in Ireland, and of the continuing feud alluded to in the last paragraph, brings the history down to the time of Cormac, its 107th Milesian king. Before his accession to the throne,

"Angus Gobnen, son of Fergus, reigned for fifteen years in Eamania. Origen(a) of Alexandria was, at this time, truly renowned over the whole globe."

*cata Hibernia*, pp. 633-4). In 1650, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Ross assembled here an army of 4,000 foot and 300 horse, from the western part of the country, to relieve Clonmel, at that time besieged by Cromwell; but, on the approach of Lord Broghill with 2,000 of the Parliamentary cavalry, the Bishop set fire to the castle, and concentrated his forces in the park, where, being attacked by Lord Broghill, they were defeated, and their leader taken prisoner. Ireton being soon after made President of Munster, dispatched a party of his forces from Kilkenny to this place, where they burned both the castle and the town. In 1691, the garrison of this castle was severely pressed by a body of troops in the service of James the Second, but, on the approach of Major Kirk with 80 horse and 300 dragoons, they abandoned the siege, and retreated, with considerable loss, to the adjacent bogs (*Story*). It is said that Dean Swift, in his progress through this country, was much pleased with the situation of the castle of Macroom.

(a) This celebrated ecclesiastical writer was born at Alexandria in A. D. 185. He early became a scholar of the illustrious Christian philosopher Ammonius Saccas, who, with most philosophers

Cormac, the grandson of Conn of the Hundred Battles, thus marked as the contemporary of Origen, was the 107th king in the Milesian succession, and stands forth in Irish history as its brightest ornament. It would appear that he, after a long interval of centuries, was able to perfect many of the wise institutions of Ollamh Fodhla, before spoken of. He, too, convened the legislative assembly at Tara, promulgated laws, founded academies and colleges, revised the bardic traditions and collections, and quelled, throughout the provinces, every strug-

of that age, adhered principally to Plato, though he adopted, in his principles, much of those of Aristotle, thus seeking to reconcile those inveterate feuds and differences that existed between the schools of these great men. With Origen, Plotinus, the most judicious heathen critic—Longinus, and many other eminent men, frequented the lectures of Ammonius. Origen, particularly, made great advances here in learning, and became an especial proficient in the Hebrew language and the knowledge of the sacred writings. At about the age of eighteen years he opened a grammar school in Alexandria, and in the year following succeeded St. Clement in the office of catechist, with its important duties of teaching divinity and expounding the Scriptures. From his schools innumerable doctors, priests, confessors, and martyrs came forth; his lectures were even resorted to by heathens, whom he freely admitted, hoping he might thereby draw them also to the faith of Christ. In 211, he journeyed to Rome, and, on his return to Alexandria, composed his works on the Holy Scriptures, which, however, with a great body of learning, were considered to contain such erroneous and dangerous tenets, that both his writings and his name were condemned in the Fifth General Council. In the persecution of the Christians, which began in the reign of Decius, none were treated with greater severity than Origen; he

gle of disaffection. In one of these efforts, the Annals of Boyle record

“ The battle of Granard(*a*), fought by Cormac, the grand-

was subjected to the most excruciating torments, which, nevertheless, he bore with incredible constancy, and suffered nothing to escape him that was unworthy of a disciple of Jesus. He died at Tyre in A. D. 254.

(*a*) Grian-ard, an Irish name, denoting that the locality, to which it is referred, had once been a station of sun worship, is identical with the town of Granard in the present County of Longford. The above battle was won by Cormac about the year 225. Soon after the mission of St. Patrick an episcopal see was established at Granard. In 480, another battle was fought here amongst the people of Leinster, in which the chief of the Kinselaghs was slain, and in 1079, Murrough Mac Dermot devastated the town. In 1205, Richard de Tuite (the lineal ancestor of the very ancient family, now settled at Sonna, in the County Westmeath), founded the Cistercian Abbey of Larha, close to the town, and hence frequently called Granard; it was by the founder made dependent on the alien priory of Clareval, and here was he interred when crushed to death by the fall of a tower in Athlone. In 1215, the custody of the castle of Granard was committed by the king to John Fitz-Lyons, in a century after which the whole vicinity was devastated by Edward Bruce, the town burned, and the abbey rifled. In 1398, Peter, entitled Abbot of Granard, succeeded, by the Pope's provision, to the See of Clonmacnois. In 1480 English merchants were prohibited from buying or selling goods on the marches of Cavan, Granard, or Longford. In 1541 Richard Farrell, dynast of Annaly, and last Abbot of Granard, was elected Bishop of Ardagh by its Dean and Chapter. In 1644 the Earl of Castlehaven, with his forces, rendezvoused here, Owen O'Neil being at the time stationed near Cavan. In 1660 Doctor William Baily, then and theretofore Bishop of Clonfert, had a royal grant of the rectory of Granard, to hold

son of Conn, against the people of Ulster. The fleet of Cormac was sent over sea."

This notice is explained by the Four Masters, as referring to a hostile expedition, which this prince led into North Britain. Tigernach also records, unfortunately, too many battles, which he was compelled to wage with a refractory people. At last

"Cormac, the grandson of Conn, was driven from his kingdom by the people of Ulster."

The expulsion of Cormac from his kingdom, as here narrated, was the re-action of those people of Ulster, who were, by the result of the battle of Granard, driven from their province into the Isle of Man and the Hebrides, and whose banishment gave to Cormac the cognomen of Ul-fada. Returning, however, with auxiliaries, and rallying round him his Irish adherents,

"The battle of Faughart(*a*), near the sea, was fought by Cormac."

*in commendam* with the See. In 1678 a charter was granted to this town, with privilege of returning two members to the Irish Parliament, which it exercised until the Union. In 1784, an institution was established here for encouraging the study of the harp, and awarding annual prizes to the best performers. It was the result of a donation appropriated for that object by Mr. Dungan, a native of the place, who had acquired a large fortune in Denmark. In 1798, the rebels appeared in great numbers before Granard, but were repulsed, with considerable loss, by Captain Cottingham. Near the town is a fine entrenched moat, commanding from its summit views into six or seven counties, variegated with innumerable little lakes.

(*a*) Faughart, situated about two miles and a half from Dun-

Tigernach states the date of this battle as A. D. 237, adding, that the then reigning King of Eamania fell on the field, when, as his successor,

“ Fergus of the black teeth reigns in Eamania. Expul-

dalk, was on the ancient northern frontier of the English Pale. Here, in two centuries after the above battle, St. Brigid was born, and in 638, an abbey and a nunnery were founded in her honour; of these edifices there are now no remains. About Faughart was fought, in 1318, the celebrated battle, popularly called the battle of Dundalk, at which Edward Bruce and his Scots were utterly defeated, although the conflict was maintained on both sides with considerable courage. Edward Bruce was assisted by Walter and Hugh de Lacy, while, among those who opposed him, under the command of Sir John Bermingham, the Lord Deputy, were Sir Richard Tuite, Sir Miles Verdon, John Cusack, and other gentlemen of the province of Leinster. It is particularly recorded, that the Primate of Armagh personally accompanied the Deputy and his army, “ blessing their enterprise, and assuaging them all, ere they began the encounter.” Here Bruce himself fell, and his grave is still pointed out by tradition. In 1597 a very interesting interview took place on the fine entrenched mount, that still stands here, in consequence of a proposed treaty with O'Neill. For such an object that chief and O'Donnel were there met by the Earl of Ormond (Lord Justice for military affairs), and the Archbishop of Cashel: the terms propounded were not, however, mutually agreeable, and the disappointed Ormond returned in chagrin to Dublin. During the subsequent wars with Tyrone, Lord Mountjoy frequently encamped at this place, and in its vicinity, while the Ulster chieftain held possession of the pass of Myra, about a mile distant. During his stay here the Lord Justice published the proclamation of the new coin, all other monies having been decried three days previously. For further notices of this locality see “ History of Drogheda.”



sion of Cormac for seven months. The battle of Crinna(a) in Bregia, fought by Cormac, the grandson of Conn."

(a) Crinna, in Bregia, now known by the name of Scrine, is situated near Tara, and though of late years a place of but little consideration, was, in early time, of much distinction, and still bears upon its summit some venerable ruins. An abbey had been established here by Saint Columba, and from his shrine (*scrinium*) being afterwards deposited within it, the name it still preserves was given. In 1027 and 1037, the Danes plundered this house. In 1058 it was despoiled by the people of Teffia, and was again wasted in 1152. After the English invasion, Hugh de Lacy, the Palatine of Meath, conferred the manor of Scrine on Adam de Feypo, who erected a castle thereupon, and his descendants were long accounted Barons of the Palatinate. Previous to 1216, this had been the seat of a rural bishopric, it was then constituted the head of a rural deanery. In 1341, Francis de Feypo, the Baron, founded a friary here for Augustinian Eremites, and, in the following year endowed within it a perpetual chauntry, for the health of his soul, and that of his wife, Ellen de Verdon. At this time the Abbess of Odder, also situated in the County Meath, was entitled to certain lands in the Irish town of Scrine, and to a flagon of mead from every tavern in the town (by which some idea of its early habitancy may be formed), while the right of presentation to the parochial church of St. Columba, appertained to the Cistercian house of the Blessed Virgin Mary, in Dublin, and that to the church of St. Mary was exercised by the Abbots of Clonard. In 1394, a royal charter authorized the collection of tolls in this town. In 1403, the vicar of the church of St. Columba of Scrine had license to absent himself from Ireland for a year, without incurring the penalties of absenteeism, his object being to study divinity in Oxford. In 1410, the King granted to John Bermingham the profits of the rent of the burgagery of Scrine, with the tolls and customs of the town "*durante minoritate heredis*," and King Henry the Fifth, in the seventh year of his reign, committed to John Charnels the custody of all the cas-

Although in this engagement Cormac was eminently successful over his ancient, and most obstinate opponents, the people of Ulster, he yet seems to have become wearied of dominion held on such disastrous terms, and, the loss of an eye soon after having incapacitated him from continuing in the government, he retired to an humble dwelling near the ancient town of Kells, where, during the remainder of his days, he devoted himself to the study of philosophy, general literature, and, above all, of religion. His discourses with the Pagan priesthood seemed like a revelation of the heavenly light that was then breaking in from the East, a species of twilight that fore-

ties, manors, lands, knights' fees, advowsons of churches, chauntries, and chapelries, which had belonged to Thomas Marward, in Scrine, and elsewhere in Ireland. In 1422, the commonalty of the town were required to render military service at Trim, and, in the same year, Walter Prendergast, vicar of Scrine, was fined for a contempt, in Parliament, by him committed when attending as a clerical proxy. An Act of Parliament of 1475, empowered the Earl of Kildare, and others, to found here a fraternity or guild, in perpetuity, to the honor of Christ, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and St. Catherine. John Allen, the ill-fated Archbishop of Dublin, being afterwards seised of the lands of Thornton, within the parish of Scrine, bequeathed all his estate and interest therein to the use of a poor-house, founded by him, in Kevin-street, Dublin. On the Dissolution, the possessions of the Augustinian friary were granted to Sir Thomas Cusack, and, in 1662, Thomas Hill passed patent for the rectory. Within the parish is Corbalton Hall, the fine seat of Matthew Elias Corbally, Esq., one of the present representatives of the County of Meath in Parliament.

tokened to the people the approach of that daylight that had not yet reached their secluded isle. After some few years passed in this retreat, Cormac perished by a sudden visitation, which Tigernach thus relates: "the bone of a salmon sticking in his throat, or invisible demons, slew him, as they say, by the agency of Maelcon, the Druid, because Cormac did not give faith to his precepts." The Four Masters reiterate this account, with the following eulogy: "This Cormac composed precepts for kings, tracts on the customs and tributes, and on the ordinations of kings; he was well versed in the laws, as well as in historical and chronological researches; he planned rules for the judges, and right principles of equity in matters of agreements, as also in the payment of tributes, so that the same law has restrained the people, from his time to the present day. Cormac was also the person, who collected the chronicles of Ireland into one place, Tara, until he ordained that they should be written out into one book, called the Psalter of Tara. In that book were the acts and synchronisms of the kings of Ireland, with the kings and emperors of the world, and the provincial kings of Ireland. In the same book were written the laws and tributes imposed upon the provinces, and the provincial laws prescribed for their respective septs. The bounds and limits of Ireland, from shore to shore, were also therein defined." Tigernach is silent on these qualifications, and the Psalter of Tara does not seem properly referrible to so early a date.

"In the more glorious pre-eminence of his religious opinions, although Cormac could not be said to have believed in Christ, yet his undoubted theism, and his utter abhorrence of the Pagan rites of the day, obtained such favour in the eyes of St. Columba, that he is said, after the lapse of four centuries from the period of the monarch's death, to have paid him the reverence usually given to eminent and holy believers, erecting a chapel or oratory over his grave, and, as a Pagan convert of the earliest auspice, whose precept and example were a light among the heathens, he well merited that tribute to his memory. From his time Druidism, or rather, the Magian worship, declined, and the ultimate reception of St. Patrick was irresistibly facilitated"(a).

"Paul the Hermit(b) died . . . Murdoch Tirach, King of Ireland, was slain by Celbad, the son of Cruin, King of Ulster, at the royal harbour of Saul"(c).

(a) See D'Alton's "History of Drogheda," vol. ii. p. 15, &c.

(b) This, the first hermit, was a native of Egypt. "Not being called," says a panegyrist, "to the external duties of an active life, he remained alone, conversing with God, in a vast wilderness, for many years, ignorant of all that passed in the world, and the revolutions of states and empires, indifferent even as to those things without which he could not live." His death occurred in A.D. 342; King Murdoch's, according to Tigernach, in 356.

(c) Saul, on the shore of Lough Strangford, was early distinguished by the founding of a noble monastery there, between which and that of Armagh, St. Patrick is recorded to have spent the last thirty years of his life, and here closing the labours of his miraculously effective ministry, on the 17th of March, 493, he

The Annals of Boyle, passing over Carbre, surnamed "Liffeachar" (having been born on the banks of the Liffey), the son of Cormac, and also omitting Fiacha Srobtinne, his son, who was slain at the battle of Dubcomar, so called from the king's "chief druid," who led his army, and fell with him; and also declining to mention some intermediate kings, noted in the other Annalists, but whose reigns were not remarkable for any events worthy of being recorded here, take note of Murdoch Tirach, the 112th of the Milesian line of kings. In his time, as Tigernach relates, the three Collas, so are the three grandsons of Cormac Ul-fada styled, espousing their ancestor's hostility to the people of Ulster, invaded that province, levelled the palace of Eamania to the ground,

was buried at Down. About the year 1140, Malachy O'Morgair, while he filled the See of Down, re-edified the Abbey of Saul, but in some years afterwards, Eochaid, king of Ulidia, and his people, drove out the Abbot and monks, despoiled them of their books, vestments, and other holy things, and carried off their herds and flocks, with all their goods. In 1275, the Abbot of Saul was a subscribing witness of Sir John de Courcy's charter to the Abbey of Downpatrick, and in 1296, a Royal license authorized the religious fraternity here to re-purchase all lands and tenements which had been, to their prejudice, alienated by former abbots. In 1316, this abbey was plundered by Edward Bruce, and in 1380, an Act passed prohibiting "mere Irishmen" from making their profession here. On the dissolution of monasteries, the possessions of this house were granted to Gerald Earl of Kildare, as part of the estate of the Priory of Lismullen. To the monks of Saul is attributed a record, hence called "the Book of Saul."

withdrew all government from its site, and established their own in the more fertile district of Uriel.

“Celbad, the son of Cruin, reigned for one year; Eocha Moighmedon, the son of Murdoch Tirach, was King of Ireland for thirty-eight years(*a*). Anthony the Monk(*b*) died in the hundred and fifth year of his age. Brian, the son of Eocha Moighmedon, reigned king of Ireland for twenty-six years. Martin(*c*), Bishop of the Gauls, distinguished himself by many miracles. Niall of the Nine Hostages reigned king of Ireland for a space of twenty-seven years.”

Although none of the kings of Ireland last named were distinguished by any eminent quality, or by any particular occurrence in their respective reigns, another, unnamed in this annal, the immediate predecessor of Niall, claims some peculiar notice. He, Crimthan, succeeded to the monarchy, according to Tigernach, about A.D. 366, and, immediately on his accession signalized himself by leading into England those predatory expeditions recorded by

(*a*) He had been king only of Connaught during the earlier and greater portion of the thirty-eight years.

(*b*) He was styled “the Patriarch of Monks,” was like, Paul the Hermit, a native of Egypt, and died in A. D. 356.

(*c*) The life of this great ornament of the Church has been written by his illustrious disciple St. Sulpicius Severus, in very beautiful and classical language. He was born in Lower Hungary, near the confines of Austria and Stiria; in 371, he was chosen the third Bishop of Tours, and the utter extirpation of idolatry out of that part of Gaul must be attributed to his edifying labours, instructions, and example. He died about the year 397.

Eumenius, Claudian, Ammianus Marcellinus, Gildas, and Venerable Bede, and which, while they checked the Roman conquests, so harassed the native Britons, as ultimately induced them to invite the protection of the Saxons, and thus led to the settlement of that warlike race in England. According to the Irish Annalists, no less than four Roman generals were successfully slain by his army at different periods, many prisoners taken, and much spoil carried back by him to Ireland. On one occasion he followed the auspices of his victories into France, and wasted Armorica, plundering its inhabitants, and imposing a tribute upon them, the payment of which he sought to secure by carrying away influential hostages: such were the deeds of wanton war, that then made a people and a king illustrious. On the death of Crimthan, Niall of the Nine Hostages succeeded to the throne, and to the wars commenced by his predecessor; the Pictish princes, also, drew him into a more justifiable military expedition; having menaced with expulsion some Irish settlers in Cantyre and Ayr, those persons implored the aid of Niall, who thereupon promptly, and in person, led an army into North Britain, defeated the Picts, and secured his own countrymen from future molestation; soon afterwards the ancient denomination of the district, Albania, was changed to Scotia Minor, to distinguish it from the parent country, and, as the possessions and authority of those colonists gradually extended over the entire land, especially by reason of

large accessions in the time of Fergus Mor Mac Erc, hereafter alluded to, the name of Scotia became its exclusive appellation, and was the origin of its present. "As Scotland is named Scotia minor," says Stanyhurst, "so Ireland is termed Scotia major, as the head from whence the name of Scotia minor took his offspring." Niall afterwards invaded England, and, in further emulation of Crimthan, carried his army into Gaul, where he devastated the province of Brittany, and carried off, amongst other spoil, no less than 200 children of the most powerful families; amongst these "was," in the language of Moore, "a youth, then in his sixteenth year, whom Providence had destined to be the author of a great revolution in Ireland, and whom the land, to which he was then borne a stranger and a slave, has now, for fourteen hundred years, commemorated as its Christian Apostle." This monarch did not, however, live to revisit his own country, or to bring home the spoil and captives he had taken.

"Niall of the Nine Hostages was slain by Eochad, son of Enna Cinselagh, at the Ictian harbour,"

i. e. about the present site of Boulogne. Niall, it may be here added, was succeeded by his nephew, Dathy, accounted the 117th Milesian king of Ireland, and, undoubtedly, the last of her pagan monarchs; he not only invaded the coasts of Gaul, like his predecessors, but, "allured by the prospect of plunder," writes Moore, "which the state of a province then



falling fast into dismemberment held forth, he forced his way to the foot of the Alps, and was there killed, it is said, by a flash of lightning, leaving the throne of Ireland to be filled thenceforward by a line of Christian kings." He is said to have been buried at Rath Croghan, in the County of Roscommon, the spot of his interment having been marked with a red pillar-stone.

In here closing this sketch of the history of the pagan monarchs of Ireland of the Milesian dynasty, that, with singular credibility, is verified through a succession of 117 monarchs, by written and unwritten evidence; by the elaborate pages of monastic record, the eternal cromlech, the sculptured stone, the primitive fire tower, the fort, the cave, the funeral mount, the ornaments of the arts, and the weapons of war, that are every day discovered in testimony, it must be acknowledged, in reference to that royal line, that of the 117 so claimed as its links, through an interval of 1700 years, no less than 74 are admitted to have perished in the field, slain by their successors; and in only 11 instances did a son or heir, in the construction of ordinary inheritance, succeed to the government of the kingdom, nor was the transmission different in the subordinate principalities, or in the descent of lands, subject to the baneful influence of those popular and sanguinary elections. The people, associated in septs under chiefs, who, while they derived titles of tenure, like the barons of English rank, from the districts which they had

appropriated, were themselves required to acknowledge a subjection to provincial superiors, that, in a more limited numerical circle of elevation, were tributary to the chief monarch, usually styled king of Ireland, or sometimes of Tara, as the "*caput regni*." The remaining events, recorded by the other Annalists and not herein noticed, may be classified as details of the sad feuds and fights that ensued upon this state of government; obits of bishops, abbots, anchorites, scribes of religious houses (no unimportant personages), petty kings, princes, and chiefs, visitations of pestilence and other epidemics, and, withal, reports of annual harvests, where, for any reason, remarkable.

After such a summary, how grateful is the first foretokening notice of Christianity.

"Patrick was carried away a captive into Ireland."

The birthplace of this great apostle is still matter of much controverted discussion, various countries, as was natural, contending for the honour; but, wherever born, it is undoubted that he was carried a prisoner into Ireland, in the sixteenth year of his age. There it was, as he admits in his own "Confession," that Christianity revealed itself to him, for most undoubtedly it had been introduced in Ireland some few years before the ordination of St. Patrick. The Annals of Inisfallen mention the arrival of Ciaran and Declan from Rome, in A. D. 402, having been deputed "to announce the faith" in Ireland, as was

Ailbe of Emly, with similar authority, in 412, and Ibar of Inver, in 420, but their preaching had little effect on the many, that were still sun or fire-worshippers; the habits and religious rites of these people remained unchanged. Once conscious of the great truths of the Gospel, the inspired saint was greatly moved by the sight of this beautiful island, thus clouded with heathenism, a feeling which, concurring with his piety, induced him to attempt its thorough conversion, and, escaping from his bondage, he would have prosecuted this design, but a second captivity retarded the great work of salvation. On this latter occasion, however,

“ Patrick was freed from his captivity by an angel.”

So say the Annals of Boyle, and so also says the British historian, Nennius; the Saint, however, states, with more simplicity, that in his captivity he heard a voice, as in a dream, announcing that a ship was prepared for his escape, and that under its influence, proceeding to the coast, he effected his deliverance. Previous, however, to attempting his arduous object, he also journeyed to Rome, and sought the sanction and aid of the Pope. After his arrival, and, possibly on his information, Palladius was, in 431, despatched by the Pontiff, as the first Bishop, to gather a scanty flock into the fold; but he encountered so many difficulties, at least in the labours of conversion, so much obstinate Paganism, that, leaving the country in despair, he died in Scotland in the same year; whereupon St. Patrick

was promptly appointed to the mission, and his first landing in Ireland in that character is, accordingly, stated to have taken place in A. D. 432. After various repulses and persecutions, and being not unfrequently driven out to sea by the Pagan Irish, he at length succeeded in landing at the mouth of the Boyne(*a*), whence, resolutely progressing up its banks, he at length arrived in view of Tara, at the very time when the King, Leogaire, the successor of Dathy, was celebrating a heathen festival, and his Magi were about displaying that sacred fire, until the lighting of which no other flame was permitted to be kindled in the island. Saint Patrick, however, was inspired to exhibit such a beacon blaze at Slane, as was distinguishable from the heights of Tara; when the King, not less astonished than alarmed, appealed to his Magi, and earnestly inquiring by whom, or for what purpose, it was displayed, those priests are recorded to have made the memorable reply: "This fire, which has been kindled in our presence, before the flame was lit up in your palace, unless extinguished this very night, shall never be extinguished more; yea, it will triumph over all the fires of our ancient rites, and he, who lights it, shall scatter your kingdom." The prediction was happily fulfilled. Leogaire, after some opposition, renounced the religion of his ancestors, and the royal example was soon followed by many of the court; even the

(*a*) See D'Alton's "History of Drogheda," vol. ii. pp. 18, &c.

chief poet of the king believed, and, with the zeal of a new proselyte, converted the pœans, in which he had celebrated false gods, to hymns in praise of the Almighty. (In Connaught alone, this apostle is said to have converted 12,000 persons).

From the account given of these conversions by St. Patrick, in his "Confession," it would appear as if the modern settlers in Ireland from other countries, were still distinguished from the more ancient Scots, and that the latter composed the dominant party; for, where the holy writer is endeavouring to shew, that not only many of the lower orders in Ireland had become Christians, but likewise some persons of the higher classes, he applies the term *Hiberni* to the former, while in the latter, calling them Scots, he includes petty kings and nobles; and it may be observed on this head, that in Bertram's edition of "Richard of Cirencester," there is preserved an engraving of a highly interesting Roman map of Ireland, which Richard himself says he discovered in his travels in Italy. It is not so accurate as Ptolemy's, but is most valuable, as evidencing the Roman ideas of this island in the fifth century (of which age this map is supposed to be), and it represents the *Hiberni* as inhabiting but a small section of the south of the island, while the *Scoti* are marked as extending over all the interior.

Soon after St. Patrick's arrival (in 438, according to the Four Masters), occurred the revision of the bardic Chronicles, in which the Apostle himself

took an active part, while the Annals of Ulster state that the great Chronicle was then compiled.

[*The ensuing portion of the Annals is a literal translation from the manuscript, as published by the late Dr. O'Conor, in the second volume of the "Rerum Hibernicarum Scriptores."*]

The first mention of St. Patrick induced notices of his mission, that anticipated the order of the Annalists of Boyle, to whose chronology returning, the event next noticed by them, after the liberation of St. Patrick from captivity, is at A. D. 420.

"Jerome(a), the priest, died, aged ninety-eight years and

(a) St Jerome, who is allowed to have been, in many respects, the most learned of all the Latin Fathers, was born at Stridonum near Aquileia, whence his father early sent him to study at Rome. He had there, as one of his tutors, the famous pagan grammarian Donatus (well known for his Commentaries on Virgil and Terence). During the intervals of his studies, he writes, that he was wont to make a circuit of visits to the tombs of the apostles and martyrs, with others of the same age and inclinations, and often to descend into the caves, which are dug deep into the earth, and have for walls on each side the bodies of those that are interred there. He afterwards betook himself to travel, and, in the schools of Gaul, and more especially at Triers, first conceived the resolution of devoting himself to the divine service. Retiring to a monastery at Aquileia, he there tested and believed his vocation, whereupon, returning to Rome, he was there baptized, immediately after which he again secluded himself in a desert island on the coast of Dalmatia, where for some time adhering to a monastic life, he subsequently travelled, with religious motives, in Asia Minor, Palestine, Egypt, &c. About the year 380, he went to Constantino-ple, and there studied the Holy Scriptures under St. Gregory

six months, having acquired the knowledge of all branches of literature; he became the observer and follower of the most approved monks.

"426(a). Leogaire, the son of Niall, obtained the kingdom of Ireland.

"429. Patrick the Archbishop came into Ireland and commenced baptizing the Scots."

St. Patrick is here styled an Archbishop, as he is in the "*Chronicon Sigiberti*," but, undoubtedly, no such ecclesiastical dignity was known in Ireland until introduced, in 1152, by Cardinal Paparo, with the Pope's authority. The annalists must be presumed well aware of this, but for greater reverence apply the higher title to the Apostle. The other historians, and especially Tigernach, who wrote nearly a century before the distribution of the archiepiscopal palls, describe him correctly as Bishop. The period of the above event is, like others in these Annals, ante-dated, according to the system of Irish chronology, as before explained; the true date of the Saint's arrival was A. D. 432.

Nazianzen, at that time Bishop of the city. After a life spent in many controversial contests and critical labours on the Holy Scriptures, he engaged himself in a translation of the books of the Old Testament, which was long after received in the Christian churches. At length, on the 30th of September, in the above year, he departed this life, and was buried in Bethlehem, whence, however, his remains were translated to the church of St. Mary Maggiore at Rome.

(a) The years are not given in figures, as above, on the face of the manuscript, but at the end of each annal a letter "K," if

" 446. St. Brigid(*a*), the Virgin, was born.

" 447. Maine, the second son of Niall of the Nine Hostages, died. Pope Sextus was slain(*b*). Laurence the Archdeacon suffered at Rome the heaviest and most acute tortures, as his history plainly relates. Pope Sextus, of whom we made mention above, while he was journeying in the Spanish provinces, brought with him thence two youths, viz., Laurence, and Vincent his relation, of whom one, St. Laurence, remained with him, but the other, St. Vincent, returned into Spain, and there closed his life by a glorious martyrdom."

About this time, according to the Annals of Ulster, occurred a memorable earthquake, before alluded to, the effects of which were so violent as to overthrow no less than fifty-seven towers over the island, evidently referring to those pagan round towers, whose number time has scarcely since diminished. Immediately afterwards, at the close of the reign of Leogaire, a Welch prince named Coroticus, landing

occurring single, denotes the intervention of one year, or, if repeated, the number of "K's" is proportionate with the lapse of years between the two events.

(*a*) St. Brigid was born at Faughart, near Dundalk; after embracing Christianity, she collected around her several of her own sex, who, forming themselves into a religious community, originated nunneries in this country. Giraldus Cambrensis asserts, that in his time (1185) her body was found, with those of Saints Patrick and Columba, in a triple vault at Downpatrick.

(*b*) No authority has been found to state that Pope Sextus the Third, here alluded to, met with a violent death; it is simply stated by other historians that he died, and, according to Anastasius, was buried in the church of St. Laurence, called "*in Lucernâ*," which himself had built.



in Ireland with a party of armed followers, at a season of public baptism, carried off a number of newly converted Christians, whom he sold as slaves, "to a nation unacquainted with God;" the horror of the transaction induced a letter of excommunication from St. Patrick against the pirate, which is still  
X preserved.

"451. From the beginning of the world to the death of St. Martin is, according to Dionysius, 5,611 years, and from the Passion of our Lord, 415. Martin, Bishop of Tours, passed happily from this life; his life was glorified by such miracles, that by his merits he raised three from death, and is spoken of as equal to the Apostles, not on account of raising the dead, but of the miracle, which happened in reference to him at Amiens, when a poor denuded man besought him, as he had done others passing that way, to give him the means of buying a coat, that, which hung on him, being so scanty as scarcely to be considered any; the holy man, having no other mode of relieving the petitioner's necessity, cut his own robe in two with his sword, and wrapt one moiety over the shivering beggar; not long after, when he was preparing to celebrate mass, and was standing at the altar, as is customary at the preface, his own garment seemed to pass away, and a golden vest to fall over him, and a globe of fire played upon his head, by which it was revealed that the Holy Ghost had descended to his strengthening, as had been done with the Apostles at Pentecost, and, therefore, is he not undeservedly considered like to the Apostles"(a).

In 454, according to the Annals of the Four Mas-

(a) The account of this miracle is utterly unintelligible in the text of these Annals, and has only been adjusted by collation with Sulpicius Severus (*De Vita Divi Martini*. Lib. i.)

ters, King Leogaire held his last parliament (Fes) at Tara.

"460. A hard battle was fought by Leogaire, the son of Niall.

"462. Death of Endeus(*a*), the son of Cathbat.

"464. Death of St. Patrick(*b*), surnamed 'Senis.'

"465. A battle at Athadara(*c*) (Adare) by the people of

(*a*) This must refer to the holy man, who, having retired from worldly pursuits, and obtained from Cengus, king of Munster, a grant of the Isle of Aran, founded there a great monastery, in which he trained up many disciples, illustrious for sanctity, inso-much that the island was called "Aran of the Saints" by way of distinction. The chief church of the island is, from him, called "Kill-Enda," and, in the graveyard of another, his tomb is traditionally pointed out.

(*b*) This St. Patrick is to be distinguished from the Apostle of Ireland; St. Patrick Senis was his companion in the earlier years of his mission, but he afterwards founded that Abbey of Glastonbury, which, in ensuing years, was so munificently endowed by the Saxon and Norman kings; where Benignus, Columba, St. David the patron of Wales, and Gildas the historian, sometime resided, and where the same Gildas, as well as the founder, were interred, as were, after the lapse of a few years, Edmund the First and St. Dunstan.

(*c*) The name of the interesting and sweetly-situated village, which seems identified with this notice, signifies "the ford of the oaks;" the River Maig, here of considerable width, glides smoothly by it, under an antique bridge of nine arches, and still exhibits on its banks the fine remains of castles and abbeys. In 1160, Murtough O'Loughlen, passing out of Thomond to attack the chiefs of Meath and Brefny, sojourned here for a short time, and soon afterwards, on the English invasion, a castle was erected in Adare, of which John de Verdon having obtained a royal grant, early in the reign of Edward the First, he endowed, in the town,

Leinster against King Leogaire, in which he was taken prisoner, but then released, on his swearing by the sun and

a friary of the order of the Holy Trinity for the redemption of Christian captives. In the time of Edward the Second, Adare was incorporated, and various murage charters, with rights of toll, were granted to the town, at which time Lord Offaley, the ancestor of the Dukes of Leinster, appears to have founded the Augustinian Friary. In 1334, the warlike Edward the Third granted an aid for the repair of the castle, whose stately battlements, now overhung with ivy nearly to the water's edge, afford a striking contrast of solitude to the stirring times when they were so vigilantly and gallantly guarded. In 1377, in consequence of the town having been burned by "the Irish enemy," a royal allocation was, at the instance of the Earl of Kildare, obtained for its repair. In the 15th century the Franciscan Friary was founded by Thomas, the seventh Earl of that line; his descendant, Gerald, having favoured the pretensions of Perkin Warbeck, the castle and all his possessions here were confiscated; he was, however, on his subsequent submission, not only restored thereto, but constituted Lord Deputy of Ireland. From this castle he took his departure in 1519, to refute the charges preferred against him by Wolsey, the result of which was, his restoration to the Vice-royalty, of which he had been deprived on suspicion; he, nevertheless, subsequently incurred more mortal displeasure, and died a prisoner in the Tower of London. In 1562, Edmund de Burgh, Bishop of Emly, was buried in the Franciscan Friary here. The castle was afterwards frequently besieged, and in particular, in 1581, by the Lord Lixnaw, who put the garrison to the sword; it was immediately after retaken by Colonel Zouch. Queen Elizabeth, at the close of her reign, granted much of the monastic possessions here to Sir Henry Wallop, on the condition of his maintaining horsemen to guard the town, and provided no portion of the premises should be alienated to the Irish. In 1599, the Earl of Essex, in prosecution of the war against Desmond, lodged, with a regiment, here for a short time, as did Lord

wind that he would restore the cattle [which he had previously carried off].

"467. Pope Leo died(*a*).

"470. Death of Leogaire, the son of Niall at Trellaig-Daphel(*b*).

"471. Ailell Molt, the son of Dathy, commenced his reign."

He had been King of Connaught, before he thus became the 119th Milesian King of Ireland. During his reign occurred, in

"475, Death of Benignus, the successor of St. Patrick"

in the see of Armagh, by that Apostle's special appointment.

"477. The Fes of Tara held by Ailell Molt.

This was one of three Parliaments held by him during the twenty years of his reign. The native his-

Carew in the following year, when continuing the same war, as Lord President of Munster. In 1641, the castle was seized by the Irish, and held till their expulsion by the Earl of Castlehaven, and in 1657, was dismantled by Cromwell's orders. In 1708, the Palatines, or German Protestants, were introduced into this locality, since which time the colony greatly increased in number.

(*a*) This was Leo, surnamed the Great. In his time occurred the ravaging of Italy by Attila, the memorable King of the Huns, commonly styled "Flagellum Dei," as did soon after the not less ruinous invasion of Genseric, King of the Vandals. The date of his death is incorrectly stated above; it occurred in 461, when he was buried in St. Peter's church.

(*b*) Trellaig-Daphel, otherwise called Grallagh-Daphel, was situated between two hills on the plain of the Liffey, and close to the course of that river, in the County Kildare.

torians are very full and proud in their accounts of these legislative assemblies, which they rely upon as having been held at Tara, from a period preceding by centuries the birth of our Saviour, when chiefs, druids, annalists, and bards, were convened there, in the presence of their king, to correct the historic records, adjust provincial differences, and impose services and tributes for the maintenance of the State; and, certainly, whoever places faith in the geography of Ptolemy must admit, that Ireland, as represented by him, was inhabited by such a variety of colonists, as rendered some common assembly indispensable for general subordination. That geographer enumerates no less than eighteen tribes, as surrounding the coast of Ireland, in the first century, in which he is followed by Marcianus Heracleota, and Richard of Cirencester, and their accounts are powerfully illustrated by the approving comments of Whitaker (*Hist. Manch.* vol. i. p. 430). It does also appear, from the native annalists, that Rath-Croghan in the west, and other localities in the remaining provinces, were the scenes of similar assemblies as those so held at Tara. These provinces were then thus subdivided: Ulster into Ulster, properly so called, Northern Hy-Niall, and Orgiel; Connaght into Hy-Bruin Asi, Hy-Bruin Breffni, and Hy-Fiachra; Munster into Desmond and Thomond; and Leinster into Leinster proper, Southern Hy-Niall, and Ossory. Each of these was governed by its respective petty king, the right of succession to that honour being regulated,

during all this interval, by what was called the law of tanistry, in virtue of which, as by Alexander's will, the inheritance passed to the strongest.

"481. The skirmish at Bragh-Eile(a) upon the people of Leinster, by Ailell Molt.

In eleven years afterwards this King of Ireland was slain by his successor, Lugad, the son of King Leogaire, at the battle of Ocha, a battle which, as Moore

(a) The more ancient name of the district of Ely-O-Carroll, which lay on the borders of Ormond, and was the ancient patrimony of the distinguished sept of the O'Carrolls, from whom it obtained its distinctive appellation. The last tanist of the family, in 1538, was Fergonannyn O'Carrol, with whom Henry the Eighth concluded a treaty in that year, which is yet of record. In 1567, Sir Henry Sidney, in a despatch to the Queen, informed Her Majesty, that, in his circuit of the country amenable to English law, he had visited "Ely, called O'Carrol's country, which country," he adds, "I found very well inhabited, and himself, for civil and bountiful entertaining me, for obedience and conformity, such a one as I never found the like of in any of the Irishry." He then mentions that this chief had offered to pay to the Crown, for his possessions, an annual rent of 100 marks, but that he (the Deputy) "had brought him to consent to £100, and hoped to persuade him to pay 200 marks." He likewise recommends Her Majesty to confer upon him the title of a Baron, as that his eldest brother had been one, but his issue male had failed, while the eldest son of this chief is "of great hope, and nearly addicted to the English order." The estates of the O'Carrol here having, however, been subsequently declared forfeited to the Crown, were granted to adventurers on the plantation by James the First, 1000*A*. being set apart and appropriated to the See of Ossory for ever.

remarks, "constituted an era in Irish history, as the race of the Nials, on whose side victory then declared, were, by the fortune of that day's combat, rendered masters of all Ireland. The law established in the reign of Tuathal, confirming the succession to his own family (as before mentioned), and excluding the princes of other lines from the monarchy, was now set aside, and the Hy-Nials, taking possession of the supreme government, held it uninterruptedly through a course of more than five hundred years."

"487. Death of Conaill."

He was chief of Meath, and a son of Niall of the Nine Hostages. From his great grandson, Colman the Great, the Clan-Colman (the O'Melaghins) derive their pedigree.

"From the beginning of the world, according to Dionysius, to the death of St. Patrick (*a*), the Bishop, 5660 years, and from the incarnation of our Lord 448. Patrick, Archbishop of the Irish, died, in the 120th year of his age, on the 15th of the Calends of April.

"488. Death of Bishop Ibar (*b*).

"489. The reign of Murtough Mac Erc commenced."

(*a*) The Annals of Ulster refer the death of St. Patrick to the year 491; the lapse of years assigned in these Annals, as from the incarnation to the death of St. Patrick, is evidently erroneous.

(*b*) This Ibar was the founder of the celebrated monastery and schools at Beg-Eri, off Wexford, from which were sent forth so many pious and learned men. The other annalists record the deaths of various bishops and holy persons, about this closing period of the fifth century.

He was the 122nd monarch of the Milesian dynasty.

"490. Mac Nessi, i. e. 'Cumusgus,' [according to the Annals of Ulster, 'Aongus'] was Bishop of Connor.

He was the founder of the church of Connor, and first Bishop of the see.

"493. Birth of St. Ciaran(*a*) the Abbot."

"496. Congall of Bangor(*b*) born."

(*a*) He is mentioned more particularly hereafter, *ad ann.* 523.

(*b*) This Congall, says Hanmer, founded the Abbey of Bangor, in Ulster, where many singular learned men, of Irish birth, were trained up, "yea, Britons, Saxons, and Scots also," who dispersed themselves, far and nigh, into foreign countries, where they confirmed and converted thousands to the true faith. The existing remains of this establishment verify the assertion, that it was once inhabited by upwards of 2000 monks, who held here one of the most eminent seminaries in Europe, so that, according to some writers, when Alfred founded a University at Oxford, he sent hither for professors. While Congall presided, Columbanus was a monk of this house. In 660 the Abbot thereof died of the plague, and in 675 the abbey was burned by the Picts, on occasion of a descent then made upon the north by them. From 812, to the middle of that century, it was subjected to constant devastation by the Danes, who, on one occasion, killed the Abbot and a number of his monks, and broke open the shrine of St. Congall. After their visitation it continued waste, and the lands belonging to it were held by lay persons, who assumed the title and property of the Abbots, until the monastery was restored, about 1125, by Malachy O'Morgair, who afterwards became Primate of Armagh, and, having visited Rome, returned here with most extensive legatine powers. At Bangor was born Christian O'Conarchy, a Cistercian monk, the first Abbot of Mellefont, afterwards Bishop of Lismore,



“497. Cannice(*a*) of Aghaboe-Cannice, born.”

and who was also the Pope's legate, and presided, with Cardinal Paparo, at the Synod of Kells, in 1152, when palls were delivered for four Archbishops in Ireland. In 1190 Christian, Bishop of Man, was interred here. In a Parliament of 1380 it was enacted, that no mere Irishman should be allowed to make his profession here; the patronage of the Abbey was at this time in the Palatine of Meath, while the Abbot had himself a seat in Parliament. After the Dissolution, a great part of its lands was seized by the O'Neills, who kept possession thereof till the attainder and Parliamentary confiscations of their chief, Shane O'Neill, in the time of Queen Elizabeth. It appeared, in the inquisitions taken at this time, that the Abbot of Bangor enjoyed a townland in the Isle of Man, on condition of attending the lord of that island, on certain prescribed occasions. In 1613, the town was incorporated, and, as a borough, returned two members to Parliament, until the Union. In 1623, a church was erected here, within the precincts of the old Abbey, and, in 1689, Duke Schomberg landed in the vicinity, to support the cause of William the Third.

(*a*) This holy man was born in the northern parts of Ireland; being put into priest's orders, he took a journey to Rome, whence returning to Ireland, he, for a time, preached the Gospel in his native province; afterwards, passing over to North Britain, he sojourned there for some time as a hermit, at the foot of a mountain, until the religious men of Ireland persuaded him to return to a more useful life there. After a visit to St. Columba, in the Isle of Iona, and sundry subsequent missionary efforts in Leinster and Munster, he ultimately settled in Upper Ossory, where he founded monasteries, and fixed the seat of a see at the locality above mentioned, hence, by way of distinction, called Aghaboe-Cannice. It is situated in a rich, extensive vale in the barony of Upper Ossory and Queen's County, and was, like the last mentioned locality, the scene of frequent Danish depredations. In 1052, a church was erected here, in which was placed the shrine of St. Cannice, but, in 1116, it was destroyed by fire. In 1234,

"499. Bute(a), the son of Bronaigh, died. Columbkille(b) was born. Beoid of Ard-carna(c), i. e. of the holy mount, died."

In the year 502, according to the computation of Tigernach, "Fergus Mor, the son of Erc, with the people of Dalrieda, held a portion of [North] Britain,

the great church, or cathedral, was built; in sixteen years afterwards, however, the seat of the see was removed to Kilkenny. Subsequently to the latter event, Fitzpatrick, the Dynast of Upper Ossory, erected a monastery on the site of the ancient cathedral, which, in 1600, was granted by Queen Elizabeth, with its advowsons and appurtenances, to Florence Fitzpatrick.

(a) This Bute was the founder of Monasterboyoe, in the County Louth, of which a full account is given in the "History of Drogheda" (vol. ii. p. 409, &c.)

(b) This the patron of Ulster, "Columba of the Churches," was so styled from the number of monastic cells of which he was the founder, both in Ireland and Scotland. He was one of the most celebrated saints in the former, the country of his birth, and became, in the latter, the Apostle of the Picts, who, having by his missionary exertions embraced the faith, gave him the island of Iona, called from him I-colum-kille, in which he built the abbey that was, for several ages, the chief seminary of North Britain, and continued long the burying-place of the kings of Scotland. The influence that his learning procured for this individual, is so estimated by Buchanan, that, he says, neither the kings nor the people would undertake anything without his advice, and the same author even seems to concede to him an exercise of prophetic powers. Giraldus, too, mentions that he foretold the English invasion, and speaks of him as one of those prophets, whose works, written in Irish, were extant in his day.

(c) Ardcarne, once the seat of a rural diocese, now gives name to a parochial division within the Barony of Boyle, noticed fully in the previous volume of this work, pp. 93, &c.

and there he died;" and Flan of Bute, has also, in his Synchronisms, given very especial details relative to the emigrations of the sons of Erc, from that extensive maritime district of Antrim, called Dalriada, to the opposite shores of Scotland, and their establishment over Kantyre, Knapdale, Loarn, Argyll, and Braidalbin, with the adjacent Hebrides; but, although this was the great era of the Irish colonization of Scotland, it is not to be considered the first. From the beginning of the fourth century it had been progressing, different small bands having, in the friendly intercourse that long subsisted between the Scots of Ireland and the Picts, passed over, from time to time, to Scotland. On this formerly questioned emigration, it may be mentioned, that Venerable Bede is a great external authority to establish the fact. "In the progress of time," he writes, "the population of Britannia was increased, in the quarter of the Picts, by the accession of a third nation, that of the Scots, to the Britons and Picts." The new comers, having passed out of Ireland under the guidance of Reuda, obtained for themselves, either in friendship or by the sword, those possessions which they hold to the present day, and from their leader are still called *Dalreudini*." (*Eccl. Hist.* lib. i. c. 1.) And he concludes by defining this settlement as having been made near Dumbarton (Alcluith), on the northern shore of the frith of Clyde. Giraldus Cambrensis supports this migration, and Higden, in the "Polychronicon," confirms it, as, "from

Hibernia, which is properly the native country of the Scots," while Richard of Cirencester transmits the proof, with his added authority and credence.

"504. St. Brigid the Virgin died."

The Annals of the Four Masters refer her death to the year 525, where they give a glowing eulogy on her virtues and actions.

"505. Benedict, the Abbot and Father of monks, flourished at this time ; the blessed Pope Gregory wrote his life, which was glorified by virtues and miracles.

"511. Murcertagh, the son of Erc, drowned."

This prince, the commencement of whose reign is before noticed, was the fourth Christian king of Ireland, and great grandson to Niall of the Nine Hostages. The Annals of Tigernach mention various battles fought by him against his refractory provincial subjects.

"Ailbe of Emly(a), the city of Ibar's foundation, died.

(a) This, once the seat of an episcopal see, and, in the first ages of Christianity, considered the metropolitan church of Munster, is now but an insignificant village. St. Ailbe died its first Bishop. He is said, as before noticed, to have preceded St. Patrick in the mission of Ireland's conversion, but he was not able to effectuate much. He was buried at Emly, in whose churchyard is a large, rough, unhewn stone cross, held in great veneration by the people, and near it is a well dedicated to this saint. In 845, this place was plundered by the Danes, and in 1058, the church and belfry were burned to the ground. Emly was again burned in 1089, 1116, 1152, and 1162 (*Four Masters*). In 1123, when Maolmordha presided over this see, the church was plundered,

"512. Tuathal Maol-garb reigns eleven years."

He was the fifth Christian king of Ireland, and, according to Tigernach, the country was, in his time, afflicted by a memorable plague. Then also occurred the death of St. Lugad, Bishop of Connor, and that of St. Mochta, Bishop of Louth, the last disciple of St. Patrick.

"519. Birth of St. Gregory, the Pope."

This was the Pontiff, Gregory the Great, of whom is related the memorable incident of the British youths "*Angli*," being exposed for sale as slaves, in the market at Rome, which led to the mission to, and conversion of that people. He was buried in the church of the Vatican.

"523. Ciaran(a), the son of the Artificer, died in Christ,

and the mitre of St. Ailbe, theretofore preserved here, was burned by the robbers. In 1192 the cathedral was destroyed by fire. In 1212, an English Cistercian monk, Abbot of Bindon, in Dorsetshire, was consecrated Bishop of this see, when King John granted to him and his successors the privilege of holding fairs and markets at Emly. In the time of Christian, Bishop of the diocese from 1236 to 1249, the cathedral was, by his piety and munificence, much beautified, and was the chosen burial-place of the diocesans, until 1568, when the seat of the see was, by Act of Parliament, transferred to Cashel; previous to which, in the beginning of the reign of Henry the Eighth, Thomas Hurley, then Bishop of Emly, erected here a College for secular priests.

(a) This Ciaran, also distinguished as "the younger," was the founder of the venerable Abbey of Clonmacnois, mentioned in the ensuing notice. It was erected on a site given to him by the above Dermot Mac Carvail, and became otherwise so amply endowed by

in the 36th year of his age. Diarmit Mac Carvail began his reign."

This Diarmit was the sixth Christian king of Ireland, and by him was held the last Parliament at Tara. During his reign Tigernach, the Four Masters, and the Annals of Ulster, record three awful visitations of pestilence throughout the country.

"524. Tigernach, Bishop of Clonmacnois(a), died."

various Irish chiefs, and had churches and cells appropriated to it so extensively, that it was said to possess the half of Ireland. Ciaran was honoured as chief patron of Connaught, in the same manner as St. Brigid was of Leinster.

(a) Tigernach succeeded Ciaran in the government of the abbacy or bishopric of Clonmacnois, a locality well worthy of some further notice here. It stands on the east bank of the River Shannon, about three miles from Shannon-bridge, and, though now but a sorry village, is covered with ecclesiastical ruins, and hallowed by so many, though undistinguished, graves of our native kings, nobles, and bishops, as to be, not inaptly, designated the Iona of Ireland. The consecrated ground encloses about two Irish acres, on which are the fine remains of the cathedral, and of nine other churches, a round tower of the veritable Pagan class, and another of more modern times and uses; and, on the western side of the cemetery, are some other ruins. In 663, three successive Abbots of this house, and the greatest part of the clergy then resident there, died of a plague, whose dreadful visitation the Irish Annals bemoan and the Venerable Bede corroborates. In 719 and 722, and subsequently, it suffered much by fire. The Irish Annals make mention of an appearance of Aurora Borealis, resembling ships with their men, as passing over Clonmacnois in 748. The Danes plundered this Abbey in 834, 839, 842, and especially in 845, under the command of the infamous Turgesius. Numerous similar visitations followed, down to the middle of the eleventh cen-

" 529. A great mortality.

" 532. Death of Bic, the son of De the Prophet.

" 536. Colman the Great, son of Dermot, strangled."

From this son of King Dermot the clan Colman O'Neils derive their origin.

" Brendan, the Abbot, founded the church of Clonfert(a).

tury. In 1088, the more celebrated Tigernach, the Annalist, then Abbot of this house, died, and was interred here. About the year 1154, Turlogh O'Connor, King of Ireland, is said to have erected a mint and struck silver money here, and in 1179, Hugh De Lacy, Lord Deputy of Ireland, made a political pilgrimage hither. In 1198, Roderic O'Connor, its last monarch, was interred in the great church, on the north side of the high altar of Clonmacnois. In 1214, a castle was erected here by the English, of which Richard de Tuite was soon afterwards appointed Constable. In 1547, the two west angles of the cathedral were demolished by a tempest, accounted the most violent that ever happened in Ireland. In 1568, this theretofore distinct see was united to that of Meath by authority of Parliament, and in 1570, the Queen granted, amongst other rectories and chapels, the old chapel of Clonmacnois, &c., to Richard Earl of Clanrickard. In 1649, a very remarkable meeting of twenty of the Catholic Bishops was held here, when it was declared, by a formal instrument, that no security for life, fortune, or religion could be expected from Cromwell; that all distinctions between old Irish, English, and Scottish Royalists were odious, and that all the clergy, who were found encouraging them, should be punished. The limit of a note precludes further illustration of this most historic locality.

(a) This Clonfert, situated in the County Galway, was hence called Clonfert-Brendan, to distinguish it from another Clonfert in the County Cork. In the former, St. Brendan, as above mentioned, founded a church and a much frequented academy, over which himself presided. He founded several other religious houses,

" 539. Battle of Culle-dremne(a) fought against Dermot Mac Carvaill; Fergus, and Donell, the two sons of Erc, and Ainmire, the son of Setnai, and Nainnaid, the son of Duach, and Aed, the son of Eochach, King of Connaught, were victorious by the prayers of Columbe-kille.

" 541. Departure of Columbe-kille to the island of Iona."

and was buried here. In 744 and 748, this place suffered considerably from fire; and in 839 and 842, no less from the Danes; in consequence of which, and as a partial reimbursement for its losses, Callaghan, king of Cashel, and Donogh, his son, presented to this abbey the spoils which they had taken from those pirate hordes. In 1065, O'Ruarc, prince of Brefny, and O'Kelly, prince of Hy-Maine, plundered this abbey, but on the following day the sacrilege was signally avenged by king Hugh O'Conor, who overthrew their army, and dispersed their vessels on the Shannon. In 1136, Donald O'Duffy, styled Archbishop of Connaught, died here, and in 1175, its Abbot was associated with the Archbishop of Tuam, as an ambassador from the unfortunate Roderic O'Conor to King Henry the Second. In 1270, the beautiful west front of the cathedral is supposed to have been erected. During the middle ages, this church was celebrated for its seven altars. In 1543, the monastery was granted, on the dissolution, to the diocesan, to be thenceforth united to the See; Queen Elizabeth subsequently projected the establishment of a university here for the Province of Connaught (see *History of Drogheda*, vol. ii. pp. 151, &c.), and, about the year 1635, the palace was rebuilt by Bishop Dawson.

(a) This field of battle lay in the Barony of Carbury, near Sligo, and the Annalists attribute the death of Dermot to the prayers of St. Columba, who, by reason of the royal hostility and persecution, had been obliged to fly from Ireland. The sons of Erc, alluded to as of the victors, were the individuals from whom the cataract near Boyle, before alluded to, was called Eas-mac-an-Erc.



" 544. Molaisse(a) of Devenish died.

" 545. Death of Dermot Mac Carvaill."

He it was who effected the banishment from Ireland of such of the Magi, as then still lingered there. His death occurred in battle, when, according to the Four Masters, his head was buried at Clonmacnois and his body at Connor; he was succeeded in the government by the before-mentioned Fergus and Donell, the sons of Erc, who reigned conjointly. That curious topographical work, entitled "the Din-Seanchus, or History of the Hills and Duns of Ireland," is considered to have been compiled in the

(a) He was otherwise called Laserian, and founded an Abbey at Devenish, i. e. "the island of the oxen, in Lough Erne, beside a then, and still existing, beautiful specimen of the national round tower; a stone coffin-like trough, here set in the ground, is believed to have been the bed of the holy recluse, while a small ruin is with more certainty defined as the sepulchral chapel of the family of Maguire, the ancient dynasts of Fermanagh. To Saint Molaisse is attributed the merit of converting from paganism Conal the Red, Prince of Ulster, who had theretofore driven St. Columba into perpetual banishment. In the ninth and tenth centuries, the island was repeatedly pillaged by the Danes. In 1076, Gildas Christus O'Dubdara, then chief of the people of Fermanagh, was slain here by them. In 1157 and 1360, the abbey was much injured by fire, but in 1449, Bartholomew O'Flanagan, being then Abbot thereof, erected the church, of which the present ruins alone now remain. That it became ruinous soon after the dissolution, is evidenced by a letter of the justly celebrated Sir John Davis to the Earl of Salisbury, wherein it is stated, that Sir John had held "the sessions for Fermanagh in the ruins of Devenish."

time of Dermot, by his chief poet Amergin Mac Amalgaid.

“ In the year of Dermot's death a mermaid was taken. Death of Brendan of Birr(a).

(a) Birr, now more popularly styled Parsonstown, is a well-built and respectably inhabited town, situated in a pleasant and fertile district, within the ancient territory of Ely-O-Carroll, whose chieftains held its castle as their seat of power. The earliest authentic notice records a sanguinary engagement fought in its vicinity, between Cormac, grandson of Conn of the hundred battles, and the people of Munster. A few years before his death, the above-mentioned St. Brendan founded an abbey here, in which he resided to his death. The native Annals mention the demises of various Abbots of this house, and numerous and destructive visitations which it sustained during the Danish occupation of Ireland. In 1014, O'Carrol, dynast of this country, fought at the head of his sept in the memorable battle of Clontarf. In 1167, the town suffered much from fire, soon after which Henry the Second, on his arrival in Ireland, granted this country to Philip de Worcester and Theobald Fitz Walter; the latter assigned his portion to Hugh de Hosesee or Hussey, ancestor of the titular Barons of Galtrim. In 1174, a council was held here, as subsequently noticed in these Annals. In 1533 the Earl of Kildare, being Lord Deputy, besieged the castle of Birr, in the assertion of the rights of O'Carroll, who was his son-in-law, but having received a severe wound, he was obliged to abandon the siege. In 1537, Lord Grey, when Lord Deputy, adopted the same policy, and restored O'Carroll to his ancient inheritance; that chieftain, to strengthen his title, surrendered, in 1557, to Queen Mary, and had a regrant from the Crown, with the addition of the Barony of Ely during life. In 1580, Lord Grey overran this country, and, in the subsequent proceedings under the Commission for its plantation, the castle, fort, village, and lands of Birr, were assigned to Laurence Parsons, brother of Sir William Parsons, the

" 550. Cēna, the son of Ula, Abbot of Clonmacnois, died.

" 551. Ecchen, Bishop of Cluanfoda(*a*), died in Christ at Clonfert-Brendan, in the 96th year of his age."

About this time the Four Masters record a maritime expedition, led on by Colman-beg, the son of Diarmid, to the islands of Col and Islay, and his return thence "loaded with spoil."

" 557. Fergus, Bishop of Drumalethglass(*b*), who founded Killebian, died.

Surveyor-General, and ancestor of the present Earl of Rosse, who, on the breaking out of the civil war of 1641, garrisoned the place with his own tenantry, thus defending it against the neighbouring septa of the O'Carrolls, O'Mulloys, O'Coghlan, &c. In the following year the castle was besieged by the Irish, but was relieved by Sir Charles Coote. In 1643, it fell into the hands of General Preston, the Commander of the Forces of the confederate Catholics of Leinster, who kept possession of it until it was taken by Ireton in 1650. In 1690, it was besieged by Sarsfield, the Duke of Berwick, and Lord Galway, but the siege was raised by Sir John Lanier, for King William. In the commencement of the eighteenth century, its glass manufactory was established, which supplied Dublin with all sorts of window and drinking glasses. For more full particulars of this locality, the reader is referred to Mr. Cooke's "Picture of Parsonstown," published in 1826.

(*a*) The Abbey of Clonfoda, or Clonfad, was situated in the Barony of Farbill, County Westmeath, it was founded by this Bishop Ecchen, to whom Ware attributes the composition of a celebrated hymn.

(*b*) Drumalethglass, or rather Dundaethiglass, was the ancient name of Downpatrick, in remote times the seat of the Kings of Ullagh or Ulidia; its more modern appellation is derivable from the fine rath or dun at the north-west end of the town, with the

" 558. Mac Nissi, Abbot of Clonmacnois, died.

" 559. Commencement of the reign of Aodh, the son of Ainmirech."

sacred association of its having long been the residence of St. Patrick. Here, too, was he interred (and his cross and grave are still shewn), as were subsequently St. Bridget and St. Columba, the other tutelar saints of Ireland. This town was made the seat of a bishopric by St. Patrick, and the above Fergus was one of the earliest in the succession of its prelates, having been previously Abbot of Killebian, a locality now unknown, but supposed to have been situated in the County Down. During the military domination of the Danes, this city was frequently wasted and plundered by them. In 1101, Magnus, King of Norway and the islands, having attempted an invasion of Ulster, was slain by the natives and buried here; in thirty years afterwards the cathedral was beautified by Malachy O'Morgair. In 1177, John de Courcy, that hero of most romantic interest, invaded this territory, expelled its prince, and established and fortified himself here. He endowed the abbey liberally, and particularly with every tenth animal on his estates, excepting the Ardea. In 1186, he joined Bishop Malachy in a memorial to the Pope, for a Bull to authorize the translation of the relics of the three saints above-named into shrines, to be constructed in the cathedral; which was accordingly performed in the same year, with solemn ceremonies, by the Pope's nuncio. At this time several English families, as the Savages, Mandevilles, Russels, &c., settled in this vicinity. De Courcy subsequently sought to establish his independence here, and, having affected to espouse the cause of Prince Arthur, renounced his allegiance to King John; De Lacy was thereupon commissioned to subdue him, in which he succeeded more by treachery than by open warfare; De Courcy was captured, sent across sea, and imprisoned in the Tower, when Hugh de Lacy fixed his residence in a castle, which the vanquished nobleman had theretofore erected here. In 1236, the fraternity of the abbey, by whom certain chapels in the adjacent islands were to

This Aodh, i. e. Hugh, the eleventh Christian King of Ireland, was a liberal benefactor to the Church, and it was he who granted to St. Columba the territory of Derry, which he richly endowed. The present Annal-

be attended, had a dispensation to assign three resident monks for these islands, with the cure of souls, those places "being inaccessible with a dry foot," and much peril of drowning having been incurred on former visits. In 1259, a deperate battle was fought in the streets of this town, between Stephen de Longspee and the chief of the O'Neills, in which the latter and upwards of three hundred of his men were slain. In 1315, Edward Bruce destroyed the abbey, and plundered part of the town, and in three years afterwards entered it with a more ambitious project, and caused himself to be proclaimed King of Ireland at the cross near the cathedral. In 1380, the Prior of the abbey petitioned to have privilege of a seat in Parliament; on search of the rolls, however, the claim was not found warranted by usage, but was immediately afterwards conceded. The town was, at this time, accounted in the Palatinate of Ulster, was a corporation, and had five monastic institutions within its walls. In 1538, the Deputy, Lord Grey, with the object of suppressing the opposition which Primate Cromer had excited in the north, against the spiritual supremacy of Henry the Eighth, marched with a powerful army into Lecale, and, having defaced the monuments of the three patron saints, and perpetrated other sacrilegious acts here, he set fire to the cathedral and town, offences which afterward formed a part of the charges on which he was impeached and beheaded. The chief ecclesiastical possessions here were afterwards granted to the Earl of Kildare. In 1552, the town was plundered by Con O'Neill, as it was in two years afterwards by his son Shane, who destroyed its gates and ramparts. In 1585, this borough returned its first representatives to Parliament, and in 1617, Lord Cromwell, a descendant of the Lord Cromwell of Henry the Eighth's time, having become possessed of the manor, had a

ists omit any notices of the unimportant reigns of four of his royal predecessors.

“ Battle of Beala-da-tha(*a*), in which fell Colman Beg, from whom is descended the Clan Colman, otherwise O'Maolsechnaill(*b*). Aodh, the son of Ainmirech, was victorious. Dega, the son of Daig, the son of Carrill, died.

grant of markets and fairs here. His splendid mansion near the town was destroyed in the civil war of 1641.

(*a*) The precise situation of this locality, which signifies in Irish, “ the causeway of the two fords,” is not now ascertainable, but the battle appears to have been fought by Aodh, against the people of Meath.

(*b*) The family of O'Maolsechnaill or O'Melaghlin, though untraceable in modern orthography, was one of the proudest estimation in Ireland, diverging from Niall of the Nine Hostages, from whom, up to Heremon, their stock was the same with the O'Neills, they acquired, and maintained for centuries, the paramount sovereignty of Meath. When Ireland was suffering under the tyrannous inflictions of Turgesius the Dane, a daughter of the O'Melaghlin, King of Meath, was the person through whose self-devotion that monster was slain, by a stratagem similar to that related of Pelopidas in Plutarch's “ Lives.” In 972, the whole district of Fingal, with many other parts of Leinster, were devastated by O'Melaghlin, surnamed the Great, with the object of emancipating his countrymen from the yoke of foreign oppression, and which he effected. At the memorable battle of Clontarf, the character of this prince was, in his old age, tarnished by an unworthy abandonment of the public weal in the indulgence of private jealousy; he, however, survived that engagement by eight years; when dying, in an island of Lough Annin, i. e. Lough Ennel, near Mullingar, he was interred with great funeral solemnities. In the middle of the eleventh century, Conor O'Melaghlin was a distinguished King of Meath; he was buried in the royal sepulchral chapel of his family at Clonmacnois. In 1079,

Colman-beg, here mentioned, was the son of Diarmid, the sixth Christian king of Ireland, and Carrill was the son of Colman-beg. In the reign of the victorious Aodh, was held, as recorded in the Annals of Inisfallen, the memorable synod of Dromceat; it was convened chiefly to check the encroachments of the Bardic order, and to fix an assessment for the support of the parent government on the Irish colony in Scotland, and was attended by the King, Aodh, by

Melaghlin, King of Meath, acknowledged fealty to Turlogh O'Brien, and in 1105, the principality of Meath was divided among the sons of Donald O'Melaghlin. In 1143, Morrough O'Melaghlin was expelled from his kingdom, and his son Conor was substituted; Morrough afterwards destroyed the bridge and fort of Athlone, and in 1146, having regained his kingdom, he founded, as a thanksgiving, the Abbey of Bective, and the Nunnery of Clonard. It was his daughter, Dervorgilla, who, having married Tiernan O'Rourke, and eloped with Dermot Mac Morrough in 1152, induced the English invasion. In 1155, Melaghlin O'Melaghlin died King of Meath. In two years afterwards, on the occasion of a synod held at Mellefont, Donough O'Melaghlin was deposed from Meath, by reason of his disrespect for religion, and the kingdom was given to his brother. In 1167, Dermot O'Melaghlin attended the synod of Athboy, as king of Meath, and in 1193 the unfortunate Dervorgilla died a penitent at Mellefont. After the English invasion, this family was acknowledged as one of the five *septs*, to whom the statutable privilege of using the English law was confined (the others being O'Neill of Ulster, O'Conor of Connaught, O'Brien of Thomond, and Mac Murrough of Leinster), and was for a long series of years considered the leading Irish family of Meath. In 1314, Melaghlin of Meath was one of the "*Duces Hibernicorum*," whom Edward the Second summoned to do military service in Scotland, and his descendant had a simi-

Columba in person, and by the petty princes, the chiefs, and clergy of the whole country.

“ 561. Death of Bishop *Æda(a)*, the son of Brig.”

The summer of the year, when this prelate died, is recorded by Tigernach as one of remarkable heat and drought, while the Annals of Inisfallen relate a singular fall of snow, and consequent mortality amongst the cattle in the ensuing year.

568. Columb-Kille on the Lord's night, in the seventy-seventh year of his age, reposed in Christ.

In the same year, according to Tigernach, occurred “ the battle of the rath of the Druids.”

lar command in 1335 from Edward the Third. In 1462 this sept were invaded by the Petits, aided by the Lord Deputy; the neighbouring Irish clans, however, took part with them and captured the Viceroy. In 1562, Morrough O'Melaghlin was recognized as chief of this sept; Sir Henry Sidney, soon after, constituted his territory, by the description of “ Clan-Colman, otherwise O'Melaghlin's country,” parcel of the County Westmeath. In 1646, Maurice O'Melaghlin was one of the chiefs of Leinster, who, repudiating the peace of Ormond, leagued with the ecclesiastics; the family name continues for some subsequent years to be identified in the inquisitions and public records, and Sir James Ware, in his account of Irish writers, mentions Francis O'Melaghlin as one of that class, born in Athlone, and dying in 1729.

(a) The Annals of the Four Masters identify this prelate by the more particular description of Bishop of Killare, a rural diocese extending at the foot of the historic hill of Usneach, in the County Westmeath.



"571. Death of the Abbot Baithine(a).

"573. In this year died the Blessed Gregory. Bede says in his history, that this event occurred in the year 605 of the Incarnation of our Lord, but the Blessed Gregory ruled the Church during sixteen years, six months, and ten days. From the beginning of the world to this was a space of 5805 years.

"574. Assassination of Colman the Great, otherwise Suibni, the son of Colman, by Aodh Slane."

This Aodh was afterwards the twelfth Christian King of Ireland, he derived his cognomen from having been born on the banks of the Slaney, and it was in his time the Pope commissioned St. Augustin to propagate Christianity in England.

"Death of Canice of Aghaboe.

"576. Congal, Abbot of Bangor, died. Battle of Slemna(b), in which fell Colman Rimid. The chief of the Clan Eoghan was victorious.

(a) He was the immediate successor of Columb-Kille in the Abbacy of Iona.

(b) Slemna, i. e. Slane, in Meath, is situated at a remarkably picturesque spot, on the northern bank of the Boyne, which is made navigable by ancillary canals, through this to Navan. It derived its name from Slanius, an Irish king, of bardic history, who, it is said, was buried in the hill. In 433, at the earliest period of his mission, St. Patrick rested here, and kindled on its hill that paschal fire, according to ancient liturgy, which caused such amazement and terror to the Pagan monarch and his Druids, at Tara. He afterwards made Slane an episcopal see, and consecrated St. Erc its first Bishop, by whom that Abbey was founded, where Dagobert, Prince of Austrasia, in France, when

The Annalists are obscure, and apparently contradictory, in their accounts of this battle. The most probable construction is, that the chief of the Clan Eoghan here intended (for there were various septs and settlements of that designation) was the before-mentioned Aodh Slane, who had been, for six previous years, the partner of Colman Rimid in the government of Ireland, and that, as the natural result, he became thenceforth sole monarch of Ireland.

driven, at an early age, an exile from his kingdom, took refuge, and remained, until, after a lapse of eighteen years, he was restored to his kingdom and native country. The Danes subsequently plundered this house, and on one occasion it is recorded, that they burned the belfry, containing an abundance of relics and people, together with the prælector of the house, the pastoral staff of St. Erc, and "the best bell in Ireland." In 1150, Turlough O'Brien devastated this district, which was the seat of a rural bishopric down to the year 1152, when, by the constitutions of Cardinal Paparo's Synod, it merged in the see of Meath. In 1156, it was plundered by Dermot Mac Murrough, and again, in 1172, with the co-operation of English cross-bowmen. The barony was afterwards conferred, by Henry the Second, on Hugh de Lacy, under whom Le Fleming held by subinfeudation, and the town became a palatinate borough. It was, however, for centuries in a ruinous state, until restored, in 1512, by Christopher Fleming, Baron of Slane, to whose descendant, James Baron of Slane, the possessions of the Abbey were, on its dissolution, granted. In 1607, the Earl of Tyrone made his submission here to the Lord Deputy. In 1641, the Fleming family having been engaged in the civil war, Slane escheated to the Crown, and was subsequently granted to William Conyngham, ancestor of the Marquis, whose splendid castle adjoins the town.

“ 579. The battle of Slabre [i. e. “ of the chains”], in which fell Brandubh, the son of Eachach. Aodh Allain commenced a reign of eight years.”

The first part of this notice refers to the discomfiture and death of Brandubh (a cognomen signifying “ the black crow”), in an insurrection of the people of Leinster, over which province he presided as petty prince ; the latter part marks the succession of Aodh Allain, the thirteenth Christian King of Ireland.

“ In the second year of [the Emperor] Phocas, Pope Gregory passed to the Lord. He it was who decided, that the seat of the Church of Rome should be the head of all the Churches, when Boniface(a) questioned him upon the subject, because the Church of Constantinople had arrogated to itself to be the first of all Churches.

“ 580. Death of Aidan(b), the son of Gabran.

(a) Boniface, afterwards Pope Boniface the Third, was then a deacon at Rome, and was sent to congratulate the Emperor Phocas on his accession to the imperial crown, while he was also deputed to remonstrate with the Patriarch of Constantinople, who had assumed, as above alluded to, the style of “ Universal Bishop.” It will be remarked, that these Annals, in a former passage, refer the death of Pope Gregory to the year 573, and both dates differ from Venerable Bede, who says it occurred in 605.

(b) This Aidan was king of the Irish settlers at Dalriada, in Scotland, and half brother to the above-mentioned Brandubh. At the celebrated assembly which Hugh, son of Airmirech, convened at Dromceat in Ulster, it was sought to make this Aidan and his people pay a tribute or tax, as an acknowledgment of

"585. Death of Colman Elo(a).

"586. Death of Aodh Allain. Maolcobe began his reign.

"589. Assassination of Maolcobe ; the reign of Subnei Mend commenced.

The rapidity, with which this succession of three kings is recorded, as occurring within as many years, too eloquently suggests the violent deaths by which they perished. Subnei Mend was the fifteenth Christian King of Ireland, and during his time occurred, according to the Four Masters and Tigernach, the desolation of various churches of Ulster, by pirates. Amongst these are enumerated Bangor, Connor, and Dinnaneg; in the latter place, says Tigernach, 150 were martyred. Tory island was also laid waste.

"591. Aodh Brennain was King of Munster.

fealty to the king of Ireland; Aidan, however, attended there in person with St. Columba, who so powerfully urged Aidan's exemption, that it was, after long discussion, allowed; but by his advocacy the saint incurred the implacable resentment of the king.

(a) He was Colman, the son of Beognai, and friend of Columbkille, and while to him is attributed the foundation of the religious house at Muckamore, near Antrim, it is with more certainty known, that being endowed with a large district of forest, called Fidh-Elo, in the southern part of Fercall, the territory of the O'Mulloys, he founded there the monastery of Llandelo, now Lynally, in the King's County, an establishment which was afterwards accounted a rural bishopric.

“ 597. Kevin of Glendalough(a) died.

(a) The interesting valley of Glendalough is situated in the heart of a county, esteemed the most romantic in Ireland, the County of Wicklow. The secluded character of its scenery early marked it as the more peculiar retreat of holiness, and at this day, the scattered, but venerable remains of the Abbays, that repose in its depths, the gloomy scenes of ancient and religious grandeur, strike the eye of the traveller with inexpressible reverence, and, if not forming the most witching influence of the landscape, at least powerfully deepen its interest. There the above Kevin, the especial patron of the valley, by his holy labours established a seminary, once the light of the western world, the shrine of religion and literature, the goal of many a contrite pilgrimage. In 908, Cormac Mac Cullenan, the celebrated Archbishop of Cashel and King of Munster, was a contributor of gold and silver to the Abbey here. In 1010 O'Toole, one of the ancient princes of the surrounding country, was buried here in the Rhefeart church. About the close of the eleventh century, Gilda na Naomh, Bishop of Glendalough, resigned his see, and, retiring to Germany, became Abbot of Wurtzburg, where he died. A second bishop, of the same name and see, assisted at Cardinal Paparo's synod, on which occasion the Pope assigned four archiepiscopal palls for Ireland, while the year 1162 is triumphantly noticed in the Irish Annals as that, in which the holy Laurence O'Toole, who had been theretofore Abbot of Glendalough, received solemn consecration from Gelasius, the Archbishop of Armagh, in the cathedral of Christ Church, Dublin. This event is the more remarkable in the church history of Ireland, as thenceforth the privilege of consecrating Irish Bishops, which had been partially assumed by the Archbishops of Canterbury, was no longer asserted. In 1169 Dermot Mac Murrough desolated this valley, and in the following year guided the forces of Strongbow, through its lonely defiles, to the siege of Dublin. In 1185, King John granted the Bishopric of Glendalough, when it should become vacant, to John Comyn, the first Englishman who obtained an Irish prelacy. In

"600. Maedoc of Ferns(a) died.

The obits of various other abbots as well as bi-

1308, the barons having effected the banishment of Pierce de Gaveston from the King's presence, he was sent into Ireland, as its Lord Lieutenant, whereupon he invaded this district, defeated the O'Byrnes, built Newcastle in their country, rebuilt "the castles of Mac Adam and Kevin," cut down a pass between Castle Kevin and this valley, and made his solemn offerings at its patron's shrine. In 1580, Lord Grey, having been appointed Viceroy, rashly led his troops against the natives of this valley, where, surrounded by enemies whom he could not confront, and assailed on all sides by attacks which he could not retaliate, he lost his principal officers, and returned to the seat of government covered with confusion and dishonour.

(a) The town of Ferns is romantically situated, on an elevated spot in the centre of an extensive amphitheatre of the most picturesque description. Its cathedral was founded by the above Maedoc, who also "built the Monastery of Melrose, by the flood of the Tweed," while this stands on a rivulet called the Ban, which empties itself into the beautiful Slaney. Within it was buried the memorable Dermot Mac Murrough, his royal residence having been on the site of the castle, whose ruins are yet magnificent. When Roderic O'Connor, King of Ireland, marched, in 1167, against Dermot, that chieftain, with the object of destroying all expectation of supplies or sustenance for the royal army, burned his own favourite city to the ground, and, amidst the smouldering ruins, "environed with woods, hills, rocks, bogs, and waters, a place to man's seeming inaccessible and invincible," awaited the arrival of his expected Welch auxiliaries. On his death Strongbow, who married his daughter, succeeded to the inheritance, and there celebrated the marriage of his own daughter with Robert le Quiney. William Fitz Adelm had afterwards a royal grant of Ferns, and by him was it conveyed to the Fitzgeralds, one of which family enlarged and strengthened the castle. It

shops, are, to a surprising extent, supplied by the several Annalists, during this and subsequent centuries.

“603. Subnei Mend, the son of Fiachra, was slain by Conal, the blind, the son of Scanlan, when Donell, the son of Aodh, the son of Ainmirech, commenced his reign.”

This Donell, or Daniel, who succeeded Subnei Mend, was the brother of the previous monarch, Maolcobe. He was the sixteenth Christian King of Ireland, and accounted the 133rd of the Milesian succession. The poem on the battle of Moira, below alluded to, contains a vivid eulogy of the peace, plenty, and happiness that ensued upon this monarch's accession.

“607. Mora, daughter of Aodh Brennain, King of Munster, died.

“611. The Battle of Moyrath(a), fought by Donell against Connell, where fell Connell Claon, son of Scanlan.”

subsequently, in the visitation of Bruce and his Scots, suffered much by fire. In 1537, before the general dissolution of religious houses, the Abbey of Ferns was declared forfeited to the Crown, by an especial Statute. The surrounding district was, at this time, called, from the town, “the County of Ferns.” In 1641, it was devastated by Sir Charles Coote.

(a) Moyrath or Moira is situated in the Barony of Lower Iveagh, County Down, and gives name to a parish and town. The latter is small, but well built, and remarkably clean, with a fine Gothic church on a beautiful eminence above it. The demesne, however, with its noble plantations, its wooded avenues, and rare collection of exotics, form the most interesting features, even though the castle, which they once encircled, has been long since demolished. The adverse leaders in the battle here, as above

This engagement between Donell, the above-mentioned King of Ireland, and Connell, who was petty prince of Ulidia, a district comprising the County of Down, and a portion of that of Antrim, is the subject of a very ancient historical poem, entitled the "Battle of Moyrath," inserted in a collection of the fifteenth century, preserved in the manuscript room of Trinity College, Dublin, and which has been recently published by the Irish Archæological Society. Conall Claon had been driven from his government by Donell, whereupon, seeking refuge in Britain, he interested the sympathy of the natives of that country, as well as that of the Albanian Scots and Picts, a large body of whom, passing over to his aid, landed in his former principality, but were signally defeated at Moira.

alluded to were the Donell, mentioned above as king of Ireland, and Connell, king of Ulidia, the name anciently given to the County of Down and a portion of that of Antrim. The battle, according to some of the Irish annalists, was continued, with varied success, during six days. In 1339, the advowson of the church of Moira was acquired by the Prior of Kilmainham. When King James the First granted all the lands in Iveagh to several Irish freeholders, hoping same would be thereby better manured and inhabited, the territory of Moira, as included therein, was granted to Murtough O'Lavery, whose descendant having forfeited in the war of 1641, it was sold to Sir George Rawdon (ancestor of the Marquis of Hastings), at whose suit it was, after the Restoration, erected into a manor. His great grandson, Sir John Rawdon, was, in 1750, created Baron Rawdon of Moira, and in 1760, advanced to the dignity of Earl of Moira.



In four years afterwards the victor of this day closed his life and reign, as recorded by the Annalists.

“ 615. Death of Donell, the grandson of Airmirech.

“ 616. It is doubtful who reigned after Donell, the grandson of Airmirech.”

So ingenuously state the Annals of Boyle; the doubt is, however, cleared up by the Annalists of Inisfallen and the Four Masters, who name the before-mentioned Conall Claon, and his brother, Ceallach, the two sons of Maolcoba, as associated in the government for twelve, or, according to some, sixteen years, until the former was slain by Diarmid, the son of Aodh Slane; this latter was, according to Tigernach, with his brother Blathmac, also a partner in this then quadruple monarchy. The two latter undoubtedly succeeded to a joint government on the death of Ceallach, subsequently recorded in these Annals, and enjoyed it until the year 635, as hereinafter shewn.

“ 619. Bede(a) was born.”

(a) Venerable Bede, the individual here alluded to (though he undoubtedly was born at a much later period in this century), is well known as the writer of various comments on the several books of the Old and New Testament, and also of a valuable Church history, which he compiled at the request of Ceolwulph (to whom it was dedicated), a learned king of the Northumbrians, who, three years after Bede's death, resigned his kingdom, and became a monk at Lindisfarne. Honest candour and love of truth are so visibly the characteristics of Bede's historical works,

“621. Fursey died in Peronne.”

The comments, which this notice suggests, are of too ecclesiastically historical importance to be overlooked. Fursey was abbot of a monastery within the diocese of Tuam, whence departing, to propagate the faith in England, with two of his brothers, he, after a short interval, aided by the liberality of King Sigebert, founded the Abbey of Cnobbersburg, now Burg Castle, in Suffolk; he subsequently retired into a desert, whence being driven by the irruption of King Penda, he passed into France, and by the munificence of Clovis the Second, and Ercenwald, the pious Mayor of his palace, built the great monastery of Lagny, on the Marne, six leagues from Paris. He was deputed by the Bishop of Paris to govern that diocese in quality of his vicar, in consequence of which he is styled by some authors bishop.

that, if some severe critics have suspected him at times of credulity, none ever doubted his sincerity. His geographical knowledge, even in the descriptions of foreign countries, is surprisingly exact, though he never travelled abroad; while it is worthy of notice, that in his book “*De Naturâ Rerum*,” he affirms the shape of the earth to be round. Doctor John Ball considers that he surpassed Gregory the Great in eloquence and copiousness of style, and that there is scarcely any thing in all antiquity, worthy to be read, which is not found in his writings; and Dr. Pitts says, that, even while he was living, his compositions were held of such authority, that a council ordered them to be publicly read in the churches; yet a complete edition of his works is still a desideratum, and many genuine productions of his, of which Cave and Tanner have given catalogues, remain in manuscript.

He did not die at Peronne, as above stated, but at Froheins, in the diocese of Amiens, while he was building a monastery at Peronne, to which church Erckenwald removed his body, and where he is honoured as patron. The history of the several glorious missions, that took place in this century, would claim a volume for that subject alone. Previous to Furse, Columba, as before suggested, converted the Picts, and founded the monastery at Iona, so celebrated for learning and classic collections, that to Gibbon's expectations it opened a hope of furnishing a complete Livy. After Furse, Maidulph is said to have erected Malmesbury, previously called Ingleborne, where, about the year 676, he instructed the English youth in classic literature; and that some Irish ecclesiastics extended their charitable labours even to Iceland, may be inferred from the remarkable tradition preserved in the "*Antiquitates Cælo-Scandinaviæ*," where it is said, that when the Norwegians discovered Iceland, they learned that men had been there who professed Christianity, and who came thither from the west by sea, for "Irish books," left by them, were discovered. Enlarging the sphere of their proselytism, the Irish missionaries founded the most flourishing schools of Christian Europe, and to them the world is indebted for the introduction of scholastic divinity, and the application of philosophic reasoning to illustrate the doctrines of theology. All, who are conversant with the literature of the continent, find there perpetual acknowledg-

ments of the benefits conferred upon its kingdoms by Irish ecclesiastics. Then was it that such apostles as Columbanus, Virgilius, and Johannes Scotus, went forth from the island, traversed the face of England and the continent, preached in the wilderness, disseminated abroad what they had gathered at home, divided the light from the darkness, and, as it were, founded the dominion of religion and knowledge in the dissolution of chaos ; but, gratifying as it should be to find Ireland, at this period, maintaining such a pre-eminence in her foreign relations, it would be a still more glorious retrospect to contemplate her in the pride of her home, surrounded with Christian charities, and rejoicing in the revelation of science. When the rest of Europe was, as Doctor Campbell expresses it, "canopied in ignorance," when the Roman empire was crumbling into ruin, and darkness hung over its Pagan tributaries, the children of Ireland alone "had light in their dwellings." This country was, as Aldhelm is obliged to describe it, in that letter of jealous sarcasm, which Primate Ussher has preserved in the "*Sylloge*," "a country rich in the wealth of science, and as thickly set with learned men as the poles are with stars." In a word, she was the asylum of religion, the storehouse of learning, the guide of youth, the ark of the faith, while infidelity prevailed over the earth.

Marts of literature, to which all nations flocked, were opened throughout the island ; the school of Armagh, according to Colgan's authorities, was the

head of these academies, and the English annalists make mention of not less than 7,000 matriculated students resident there at one time, and that, in fact, a section of the city was called Trian-Saxon, as long exclusively assigned for the English scholars. There were other celebrated seminaries within that province, at Louth and Downpatrick. Ibar had an extensive university at Beg-Eri; a greater was established at Clonard, termed by the monastic writers, the hive of wisdom, the cradle of sanctity, and the resting place of saints. Other schools were established at Ross-carberry, Cork, Lismore, Roscréa, Clonfert, Clonmacnois, Glendalough, Cashel, Leighlin, Kildare, Slane, Fore, and at Mayo. The last establishment was early founded by Colman, peculiarly for converted Saxons, who gladly availed themselves of so noble an exercise of friendship; so much so, indeed, that this literary resort became an object of grateful notoriety, and the Irish nation is enthusiastically commemorated by Bede, not only as bestowing education and morality to every class of his countrymen, but even supplying them with sustenance, books, and all attendance of masters. The same venerable author mentions, that Oswald, Prince of Northumberland, having been baptized in Ireland, received his education at Mayo, and afterwards brought over teachers thence to instruct his people. In that monastery, probably, Alfred, a subsequent prince of Northumberland, studied, while Bede also

says that the sons of King Edelfrid were welcomed and taught among the Irish.

"In this year also died Munemoch of Leithmore.

"623. Ceallach, the son of Maolcobe, died.

"631. Conaing O'Daint, and, according to some authorities, Cumin the tall, died.

"633. Guire Aidne died(*a*).

"635. A great pestilence, called the yellow plague, raged. Diarmid and Blathmac, the two Kings of Ireland, died, as did Fechin, of Fore(*b*), and many others, thereof.

(*a*) Of the several persons, in these last notices enumerated, it may be mentioned, that Munemoch, signifying in Irish a fair youth, has been rendered into Latin by the Monkish historians, as Pulcherius, by which name they record him as the founder of Leithmore, in the King's County. Ceallach was before alluded to as the joint partner with Conall Clason, in the government of Ireland; Conaing was Abbot of Emly; Cumin was the son of the king of West-Munster, and Guaire Aidne the tenth Christian king of Connaught, and was buried at Clonmacnois.

(*b*) Fechin was the founder of the Abbey of Fore, as also of that at Ballysadare, and, it is supposed, of that of Cong, and others. As the first only is mentioned here, it alone claims a notice. Situated in a fertile valley, near that fine sheet of water, Lough Lene, from which it is separated by a lofty mountain, called the Ben of Fore, it was once celebrated for its numerous ecclesiastical foundations, of which several remains are still traceable, although the door frames, mullions, quoins, tracings, and ornamental stones of its consecrated architecture, have been subjected to most disgraceful pillage. St. Fechin's little chapel is still identified in a cell of unhewn stones, evidently belonging to an era of the highest antiquity. A square tower is used as a burial vault by the Nugent family, and a stone cross, much broken and defaced, stands in the centre of the village. St. Fechin is said to have governed

Of this Diarmid, Tigernach has an interesting notice. He states that in a battle fought at a place called

3,000 monks in this house, and was followed by a long succession of Abbots, until the locality was accounted a rural bishopric. In its early architecture, which was of wood, it suffered repeated conflagrations, especially from the Danes, until, in 1209, Walter de Lacy refounded it for Benedictine monks, whom he brought from the French Abbey of Evreux, to which he constituted this of Fore a filial cell. By reason of such its alien dependence, it was, in 1364, seised into the king's hands, and, during the continuance of wars with France, its possessions were granted, from time to time, to various patentees; the Priors of the house for the time being were, however, most usually preferred. In 1403, the king empowered William Nugent, Baron of Delvin; Robert Cadell, knight; Jenico Dartas, and John D'Arcy, Esquires; as special justices of the peace, to hold conventions of the clergy and people, and to parley at Fore with the peers and freeholders of the baronies of Delvin, Fore, Mullingar, and other adjacent districts, on such projects as might be advisable for the better government of the marches. John O'Reilly, "an Irish enemy," having, with a band of armed horsemen and foot, some time previous to 1422, spoiled and burned the granaries of John England, then Prior of Fore, so that he was by his own means unable to maintain his priory, then the key of the marches in that direction, a royal aid was allocated to him, while he had also a grant of the estates and advowsons of churches and vicarages to the Priory appertaining, as long as the Abbey should continue in the hands of the Crown. The services of the same Prior, in erecting castles in the different possessions of his house, are enumerated in contemporaneous grants. The manor of Fore was theretofore enjoyed by Edmund Mortimer, Earl of March, as one of those in his Palatinate of Meath, and descended from him to Edward the Fourth. In 1436, a charter was granted to the town, empowering the Portreeve and authorities there to exact tolls, for twenty years, on all things brought thither to market, with the object

Cairn Connel (probably the present Rathconnel), Diarmit was completely victorious, whereupon he proceeded to Clonmacnois, where the fraternity made offerings to God for him, that he might be safe from all adversity ; and Diarmit gave to them the lands of Tuam-n-Erc, or, as Tigernach says, it was called in his day Liath-Manten, as an offering to God, and Ciaran, the patron of Clonmacnois ; and he laid a sod upon the altar, and three maledictions were solemnly pronounced against the King of Meath, interdicting any of his people from opposing the endowment so made; (see, of these endowments, "*Essay on the Ancient History of Ireland*," p.273); and Diarmit also ordained, that the monks should take care that he would be buried in their church. The Irish annalists record, on many other occasions, similar visitations of pestilence to that of which Diarmit died. They also note several years of leprosy, and very frequent and long-continued visitations of famine.

"640. Cendfaelad, the son of Blathmac, the son of Aodh of raising sufficient funds to pave the town, and build a ditch or stone wall, for the better security of His Majesty's English subjects there against their Irish enemies, who had, as the patent recites, thrice burned Fore to the ground; of the walls and gates, so consequently constructed, several vestiges may still be seen. Fore continued to be thenceforth a borough, and sent its representatives to Parliament, down to the time of the Union. William Nugent was the last Prior of the Abbey, and, on the dissolution, its possessions were demised to Christopher, Baron of Delvin, traditionally styled the Black Baron.



Slane, was killed by Finachta, the son of Donogh O'Cend-faelad, when Finachta began his reign."

Thus was the 20th Christian king of Ireland slain by the 21st. The victor is styled by other annalists, "the Munificent," on account of his having relieved the people of Leinster from the Boarian tribute, which had been imposed upon them for upwards of five centuries, and was the cause of many wars. This Finachta, according to Tigernach, after levelling to the ground the fortress of the northern kings at Alichia, retired to a monastery, from his government, for one year, which he resumed after that interval.

"645. "Cathal, the son of Raghallach(a), died."

About this time Gertrude, the daughter of the illustrious, Pepin "Maire du Palais," successively to Clothaire the Second, Dagobert, and Sigebert) is recorded by Fleury to have sent to Ireland for persons qualified to instruct the Brotherhood of the Abbey of Neville, not only in theology and pious studies, but also in church harmony, or psalm singing. The biographers of Columba mention that this Saint expounded to his followers the psalms, and many other things which were thought worthy of being adapted to music. The interview between him and the poet (noticed *ante*, vol. i. p. 173, &c.), shews that singing was universally subject to some regular rules; and, in reference to the music of Ireland generally, it may be here mentioned, that, while trumpets of brass have

(a) Raghallach, here named, was the ninth Christian king of Connaught.

been frequently found in the country, and, while Cambrensis speaks of the harp of St. Kevin, the patron and founder of the ecclesiastical city of Glendalough at the close of the sixth century, the author of the ancient life of St. Ciaran says, the King of Munster, in 489, had the best collection of harpers, who used to accompany their own singing, while they celebrated the achievements of heroes in his presence. In the life of Kentigern, who lived in 580, it is stated, that the King of Ireland sent a *joculator* or *jongleur* to the Welch court for political purposes, who, being admitted, sang and played on the harp, and delighted the king and his nobles during the Christmas ; and Warton, in his "History of English Poetry," insinuates that the Welch thus acquired their knowledge of the instrument.

"649. Lough Neagh was turned into blood(a)."

"657. Adamnan came to Ireland, and brought with him good tidings."

From other Irish annalists this brief notice is made intelligible. Immediately previous occurred that melancholy devastation of Ireland, by Bert, the general of Egfrid, king of the Northumbrians, which Venerable Bede not only pathetically laments, as per-

(a) This phenomenon is referred by the Annals of Tigernach to the year 684, and is affirmed by the "*Chronicon Saxonum*," as at 685; where it states, that such a shower of blood then fell in Britain, that the milk and butter were affected by it in colour and general appearance.

petrated on an unoffending people, and as characterized by unrestrained desecration of churches and monasteries, but even attributes adversities that soon after befel the aggressors, to the crying guilt of this expedition. The plain of Bregia, and the rich churches of Meath and Louth, were, according to the Annals of Ulster, the scene of this predatory infliction, in consequence of which an embassy was despatched to Egfrid, who thereupon made all available reparation for the injuries so committed by his army, and deputed Adamnan to offer his atonement and satisfaction. The Annals of Inisfallen say, that this mediator carried over tribute ; and those of Tigernach, that he brought back the prisoners who had been captured in the invasion. The adversities, however, to which Bede alludes, overtook the offenders, and in the following year, Egfrid, and a large body of his forces, fell in battle. Of Adamnan, it may be added, that he was the relative and biographer of Columbe-Kille, was born at Raphoe, in the County Donegal, and, following the steps of his holy kinsman, retired to the monastery of Iona, where he composed the life of Columba, edited certain canons, and also drew up a curious description of the Holy Land, as that country appeared in his time, which furnished Bede with the principal memorials in his work, "*De Locis sanctis*." To him is likewise ascribed "a Vision of the plagues and miseries, that were to be inflicted on Ireland and its inhabitants, unless they faithfully observed the law and testament, bequeathed to them

by St. Patrick and God." His death is related, with much eulogy of his character, by the Four Masters, *ad ann.* 703.

"660. Finachta, king of Tara, and Bresal, his son, were slain, when Longsech, the son of Ængus, began his reign."

Tigernach relates, that during his time, Ireland was miserably reduced by famine, originating in a dreadful murrain which raged among the cattle; and also that in his latter days the Irish settlers in Scotland invaded Ulidia, and laid waste the coast. Longsech, the successor of Finachta, was the 22nd Christian king of Ireland.

"662. Moling, of Luachra(a), died."

The year 664 is projected in the Annals of Tigernach, as rendered signal by an eclipse of the sun, at the ninth hour, in the calends of May, an accuracy of calculation by which Bede is corrected. The Irish historian adds, that, in the summer of that year, the sky presented fiery appearances: he also mentions a great mortality as having immediately afterwards occurred in the maritime part of Leinster, and an earthquake in Britain. It is here observable, that while, as before noticed, there is much reason to con-

(a) Luachra was the name of a territory in the County Limerick, on the borders of Kerry, where Moling's ancestry had resided. He was himself born in the County Wexford, and in his youth embraced the monastic life. On the death of St. Edan, he was constituted his successor in the See of Ferns. The Abbey of Timolin was of his foundation, and there was he interred.

jecture that the Irish were early acquainted with the Metonic cycle, and other principles of astronomy, the proficiency of several natives in that noble science is distinctly recorded. Cumian, about the year 634, was the author of that learned letter to Segienus, the Abbot of Hy, concerning the Paschal question, which displays such curious calculations. "In it," says Ledwich (*"Antiquities of Ireland"*), "we can discover his acquaintance with the doctrine of time, and the chronological characters; he is no stranger to the solar, lunar, and bissextile years, to the epactal days and embolismal months, nor to the names of the Hebrew, Macedonian, and Egyptian months. . . . It would at any time be esteemed argumentative and learned, and the number of books he possessed, or must have perused, are considerable; he cites Jerome, Origen, Cyril, Cyprian, Gregory, and Augustin; he adduces Annatolius's cycle of nineteen years; Theophylus's of ninety-five; Cyril's of the same; Dionysius's octaetris; Victorinus's of 532 years, with those of Augustin, Morinnus, and Pachomius." Virgilius, whose country is marked by Alcuin, in the well-known epigram,

"Egregius præsul meritis et moribus almus,  
Protulit in lucem quem mater Hibernia primum,  
Instituit, docuit, nutritivit,"—

this very Virgilius, in the year 767, asserted the spherical figure of the earth, at a time when all Europe was ignorant of the fact, and combated the

opinions of Lactantius, Augustin, and other fathers of the Church, who supposed that the earth had a plane surface. The progress of this whole controversy is to be found in the writings of Canisius, Aventin, and Velser. The astronomical learning of the Irish philosophers of this age is yet further established, by their observations as of new stars, and the accuracy with which eclipses, solar and lunar, appearances of boreal lights, comets, &c., are computed, particularly an eclipse of the sun in 495; that in 664, above alluded to; an eclipse of the moon in 673; the appearance of a comet in 676, which is observed in the same year by Hermannus Contractus; another eclipse of the moon in 717; and one in 733, which Florence of Worcester refers to 734. In 743, the Annals of the Four Masters record strange celestial phenomena, which said Florence also notices at the same year, as falling stars; and appearances, as of ships in the air, will be found mentioned at the year 721, in the Annals of Boyle. But to return to these Annals.

“667. Died Murdoch Muillethan, the son of Fergus, from whom the Clan Murdoch takes its name.”

This Murdoch was King of Connaught, and his cognomen of Muillethan was given to him as having been flat-headed.

“668. The battle of Coran(*a*), in which fell Longsech, the son of Aengus, King of Ireland, with his three sons.

(*a*) This district extended over a very large portion of ancient

“670. Cellach, the son of Ragallach, King of Connaught, died, after taking Holy Orders.”

In 673, according to Eddius (*“Vita Wilfridi”*), Dagobert, prince of Austrasia (Lorraine) after an exile of eighteen years in Ireland, during which the native annalists say he resided in the Abbey of Slane, was, at the instance of his subjects, restored to his kingdom and country.

“675. Conall, the son of Fergus, King of Tara, died by a sudden death, when Fergall, the son of Maoldun, commenced his reign.”

This Conall, according to the Annalists of Inisfallen, was drowned; his untimely fate being considered as an especial judgment for his persecutions of the ecclesiastical orders, both secular and regular. His successor, Fergall, was the 24th Christian king of Ireland. During his time, writes Tigernach, “Bede compiled his great book.” In the seventh year of his

Sligo, comprising not only the Barony of Coran, properly so called, but also the baronies of Gallen and Leney, including the residences of the septs of the O’Haras and Mac Donoughs. It had been the scene of many battles, beside that above alluded to. According to the Bardic accounts, Macha, Queen of Connaught, here defeated and slew Diorthorba, who had assumed the government of that province. In 1087, Roderic O’Conor, King of Connaught, was defeated here by Hugh, son of Arthur O’Ruarc, Prince of Breffny. In 1135, Coran was devastated by the Mac Ranells (Reynolds), and, in 1155, by Tiernan O’Ruarc. After the English invasion Richard de Burgo, the second Earl of Ulster, erected a castle here for its security.

reign, he convened a Parliament at Tara, but the session closed, according to the Annalists, in confusion and homicide.

“683. Becc-Borchi(*a*) died. It rained a shower of honey on the small fords, a shower of silver on the large fords, and a shower of blood on the foss of the Leinster people, from which circumstance Niall, the son of Feargal [the king], was styled ‘of the showers,’ because he was born in that year.”

Tigernach, and other annalists, mention this phenomenon, which may be referred to natural causes, or optical deceptions. In

“687, the battle of Almhain was fought, in which fell Fergall, the son of Maoldun, King of Ireland.”

The earlier historic associations of Almhain, in the County Kildare, have been noticed, *ante*, p. 19. The above battle, in which upwards of 7,000 were slain, was fought with the object of reviving the long discontinued provincial assessment, called the Boarian tribute, as was another, in the twentieth ensuing year; while, in several years after, when Donogh was King of Ireland, he encamped here, and wasted the surrounding country, in the assertion of the same tax.

“688. Inrechta, the son of Murdach, died.”

(*a*) He was the son of King Blathmac, mentioned *ante* at 635, was himself petty prince of Ulidia, and is stated, in other Annals, to have died on a pilgrimage.



He was the fourteenth Christian king of Connaught, and died in the observance of a pilgrimage at Clonmacnois.

“692. Murrough, the son of Bran, King of Leinster, died.

“697. Gerald of Mayo(a) died.

In the interval between this notice and the next, Flahertach, the 27th Christian king of Ireland, brought over a fleet from Dalriada, in Scotland, to Ireland, with which he circumnavigated his kingdom, despoiling, and breaking down the strength of those, who had been adherents of his predecessor, Cionnachta (*Four Masters*).

(a) Mayo is now but an insignificant village, in the county to which it gives its name; it still, however, exhibits some interesting monastic and castellated remains. In the middle of the seventh century, St. Colman, having resigned the Benedictine cell at Lindisfarne, in Northumberland, returned into Ireland, and obtaining a grant of lands here, founded an abbey, which he filled with English monks, from whom it was popularly known as “Mayo of the Saxons.” Gerald, above named, with three brothers, and no less than 3,000 disciples, formed this community, who, as Venerable Bede writes, “lived after the example of the ancient fathers, in great continency and sincerity, on the sole labour of their hands.” Gerald succeeded the founder in its government. In this establishment existed one of the most renowned of the Irish seminaries, as before alluded to. The successors of Gerald were styled bishops, for centuries after the rural bishoprics had generally merged, by the decrees of the synod of Cardinal Paparo. In 778 Mayo was consumed by lightning, and, in 818, burned and despoiled by Turgesius, the Danish tyrant. Various similar visitations befel it in subsequent years, while, in 1380, an Act of Parliament ordained, that no mere Irishman should be allowed to profess here.

"700. Died Cathal, the son of Murdach, King of Connaught, from whom the Clan-Cathal is derived. Bede, the sage of the English, died."

Hugh Allain was then King of Ireland, in the third year of whose reign a battle was fought, at Faughart, by him and the sept of the Hy-Nials of the north, against the people of Ulidia, in which, say the Annals of Ulster and those of the Four Masters, the king of Ulidia was taken and beheaded at the door of the church of Faughart.

"703. The battle of Atha-Senagh(a), i. e. the battle of Uchbad, where many fell."

(a) Such was the old name of Ballyshannon, it signifies the "ford of the old people," and has no relation to the Shannon, but stands at the mouth of the Erne, on the verge of a fertile and populous country. The river, having a succession of falls, amounting to 140 feet, affords numerous sites for mills, and the harbour has been made accessible to vessels of 120 tons' burden. In 836, the Danes sustained a considerable defeat here, and, in 1005, Brien Boromhe led an army, along the coast of Connaught, to this town, with the object of exacting hostages in Tyrconnel and Tyrone. In 1100, Murtoth O'Brien, at the head of an army, came hither with hostile intentions, but, on being actively opposed by the people of Tyrconnel, he was necessitated to retreat "without hostages or prisoners." Murtoth was, however, ruinously successful in the following year, burning churches and forts. In 1141, Niall O'Loughlin led an army from the north through this place, in order to exact hostages from Turloagh O'Conor, who met him at the Curlews, and there delivered the hostages required, whereupon Niall returned to his own country. In 1166, Roderic O'Conor, in the reaction of that petty feudalism, which then dissociated Ire-

It was fought by Hugh Allain (the son of Feargall) the 28th Christian King of Ireland, against Hugh, son of Colgan, King of Leinster, whose provincial forces were signally defeated, 9,000 having been left dead upon the field.

land, marched with his forces hither to receive from the Clan-Conall the hostages which he then demanded. Here, in 1247, Mac Sumerlid was killed by Maurice Fitz Maurice Fitz Gerald. In 1359, John O'Doherty, chief of Ardmiodhair, and Lord of Inishowen, was killed here. In 1592, Hugh O'Donnel, prince of Tyrconnel, received his son, the celebrated Red Hugh, after his escape from Dublin, in the Castle of Ballyshannon, a small portion of whose ruins is still traceable. In five years afterward Sir Conyers Clifford, with a force of 22 regiments of infantry, and ten of cavalry, crossed the Erne, though vigorously opposed by O'Donnel, and succeeded in establishing his head quarters in the monastery of Easroa, adjoining this town. Here, having received ordnance by sea from Galway, he besieged Ballyshannon Castle, but was met with a repulse as severe as unexpected, and compelled, after five days' unavailing efforts, to make a precipitate retreat, in which he was harassed by O'Donnel and his allies, until the survivors of his band found shelter in Athleague. In 1603, when King James granted, to Rory O'Donnel, the earldom and territory of Tyrconnel, he reserved the Castle of Ballyshannon, one thousand acres adjoining thereto, and the fisheries. In 1610, Sir Henry Ffolliott, afterwards Baron of Ballyshannon, was appointed Governor of that castle, with a salary of ten shillings per day. He died in 1622, seised of the Abbey of Easroa, various rights of fishery, &c. In 1612, the town was incorporated, with a privilege of returning two members to Parliament, which privilege it exercised until the Union. In 1652, the castle was taken by the Earl of Clanrickard, and, in April 1690, the town was the station of a detachment of King William's adherents, under the command of Colonel Tiffin.

"704. Samthana, Abbess of Clonbroney(*a*) died.

"707. Cathal, the son of Finguin, King of Munster, died; as did also Hugh the Stammerer, son of Inrechta, son of Murdach, King of Connaught.

"708. The battle of Magh-Trega(*b*), in which fell Aodh

(*a*) At this place, which is situated in the Barony of Granard, County Longford, St. Patrick founded a nunnery, of which the above Samthana became Abbess on succession, and was herself succeeded by a line of Abbesses, down to the commencement of the twelfth century, as named in the Irish Annals.

(*b*) This battle was fought in the immediate vicinity of Kells, County Meath, a locality so early projected in the history of this country, that a citadel is said to have been founded here, nearly one thousand years before the Christian era. Here, in the third century of that era, Cormac Ulfada, the most accomplished of the Milesian princes, passed his latter days. In the sixth, St. Columba, having obtained a grant of land from the King of Ireland, founded an Abbey here; on the decay of which, in the year 804, Ceallach, *alias* Celsus, Abbot of Iona, having been driven, with his family of religious, from that island, settled at Kells, refounded the monastery in honour of St. Columba, presided over it for seven years, and thence returned to Iona, where he was buried. In 899, Kells was pillaged by Flan, son of Melaghlin. In 918 the Danes burned the Abbey, which was then (it would appear, for the first time) a *stone* building. They again devastated "the city of Kells," in 949, 968, and 996. In 1006, St. Columba's Book of the Four Gospels, beautifully adorned with gold and precious stones, was, as recorded in the Annals of Ulster and those of the Four Masters, most sacrilegiously stolen in the night, out of the lower house of the great stone church of Kells (then, as it would appear, recently re-edified), but it was found in a bog, within a few weeks afterwards, despoiled of its ornaments. In 1018, Sitric, son of Aulaff, led the Danes of Dublin hither, devastated the town, carried off great booty, and many captives, and slew several within the body of the church. In 1100 occurred

Allain, the son of Feargall, King of Tara; Donall, son of Murrough, who became afterwards king, was victorious.

what the Irish Annals call "a martyrdom of the monks of Kells, with their Abbot, to the manes of the O'Briens," theretofore slain in that town. Kells was burned in 1111, and again in 1135. In 1142, a band of invaders from the Ebudes (Hebrides) wasted Kells and Dublin. This place was again burned in 1143, and three times in 1144. In 1151, Donogh O'Carrol, Prince of Louth, having, on the faith of a parley, come hither to meet Tiernan O'Ruarc, was taken prisoner by him, and sent into confinement in an island of Lough Shillen, until he was rescued by Godfrey O'Reilly, and restored to his principality; but this Godfrey was afterwards slain here by the son of O'Ruarc. In 1156, the town, with all its sacred edifices, was destroyed by fire, and in 1170 and 1171, was plundered by Dermot Mac Murrough with his Welch allies. In 1173 the Abbey was liberally endowed with lands "in frankalmoign," by Hugh de Lacy, and, in 1176, the castle was erected, for the defence of the town against the Irishry. In 1177, Prince John continued the grant of Hugh de Lacy, whose descendant, Walter, in the time of Richard the First, erected a priory here for Cross-bearers, and granted a Palatinate charter to the town. In 1235, the Bishop of Meath established his right on suit to the advowson of Kells, and in 1315, Edward Bruce, having defeated the Lord Roger Mortimer, near Kells, wasted the town, and took many prisoners. Various murage and paveage grants were subsequently made for the town's defence and habitation, and there are records of the Superior being summoned for breach of trust in this behalf. In 1560, Kells returned its first members to Parliament, and, in 1687, James the Second affected to grant a charter to its corporation. On its disfranchisement at the Union, the Earl of Bective received £15,000, as compensation for his loss of patronage thereby. In 1824, a silk and cotton manufactory was established here, which is still maintained. The town presents a spacious church and chapel, but is more especially interesting in antiquarian remains, amongst which

Tigernach, and other Irish annalists state, that during the reign of the above Aodh Allain, Angus, son of the King of the Picts, attacked the Irish settlers from Dalriada, in Scotland, wasting their colony with fire and sword; the Picts, however, adds Tigernach, were ultimately subdued. Donall, by his victory, became the 29th Christian king of Ireland. The Annals of Inisfallen commemorate a prevalent and destructive pestilence in this year, while Tigernach remarks, that four battles were fought in Ireland during this one summer.

“712. Coman, of Roscommon(a), a very holy man, rested in Christ.”

are the stone roofed cell of St. Columba, one of the most perfect of these structures in the kingdom; an ancient cross, handsomely sculptured, and a round tower upwards of ninety feet high, though it has lost its conical top, and the ground is now much raised about it. This fine pillar stands at south of the church, and has, like other round towers, survived a succession of adjacent chapels, and “great stone churches.” The church here was levelled to the ground, or otherwise dilapidated, and again re-edified, no less than seven times in the eleventh century, after the above notice of 1006, and very often subsequently; while that notice carries an additional interest, as it shews that the round tower was not then designed or recognized as a safety repository for the Abbey muniments. The great Gospel of Columba, so once revered, is now preserved in the College Manuscripts, an exceedingly beautiful and valuable document.

(a) From him this town takes its name, “the pleasant place of Coman.” He was Abbot of Clonmacnois, and here also founded an Abbey for Canons Regular of St. Augustin. In 1133 O’Berne, “the good Royal Judge” of Ireland was interred here. In the

“ 721. Ships were seen in the air over Clonmacnois.”

This celestial appearance is recorded, at the year

following year it was plundered, and partly consumed, by the people of Munster. In 1156 Turlogh O’Conor, King of Ireland, who had been a liberal benefactor to this house, was interred within its walls; and in 1158 an ecclesiastical synod was held here, in which “many wholesome and exemplary decrees were made.” In 1170 the Abbot transferred the relics of the founder to a shrine richly ornamented with silver and gold. In 1180 Milo de Cogan, the first of the English adventurers, who carried hostilities beyond the Shannon, advanced, in his invasion of Connaught, with a body of 600 men as far as this town, but, disappointed in his expectation of aid from native disaffection, he was subjected to a mortifying and disgraceful discomfiture. In 1204 the Abbey was plundered by William Burke Fitz Adelm. In 1253 the Dominican Friary, whose remains are still so interesting, was founded near the town by Felim O’Conor, son of Charles of the red hand. His relative, Tumultach (Thomas) O’Conor, who had been made Bishop of Elphin in 1246, consecrated the pile, dedicating it to the honour of the Blessed Virgin. In 1265 the noble founder was buried here; and a fine monument of Irish marble was erected over him. It represented him stretched at full length, holding a sceptre in his hand; and on the side slabs were sculptured groups of gallow-glasses, or body guards; but the once beautiful monument of this last styled king of his race is neglected and dismantled. In 1166 the Abbot of Roscommon, Moylessa O’Hanayn, also presided over the Abbey of Athleague. In 1268 the Castle, some of whose walls still testify its extent, was erected by Sir Robert de Ufford, Lord Justice of Ireland; and in 1269 a Franciscan Friary was founded here, which was, however, destroyed by fire in the following year. Soon afterwards the castle was taken by the native Irish, when considerable damage was done to the original works. The expenses of its repairs, in 1278, are recorded in a pipe roll of that date. In 1282 the Abbot and his convent

743, by Florence of Worcester, and by Matthew of Westminster.

released to the town of Roscommon, which had been then lately incorporated, an annuity of fifteen marks, which they theretofore paid, for the land on which the castle and new town were erected. In 1293, a general chapter of the Dominican Order was held in their house here. In 1302, Walter Wogan was constable of the castles of Roscommon and Randon (St. John's, near Athlone), with a salary of £100 per annum. In 1310, the burgesses petitioned Edward the Second for a confirmation of their charter, which was afterwards conceded; and in 1314, Richard Earl of Ulster summoned his adherents to meet him here, for a hosting against Edward Bruce, the Scottish invader, in which service he was warmly aided by Felim O'Connor, the Irish Prince of Connaught, with his native troops. In 1326, William, son of Geoffry de Bermingham, was appointed constable of the castle of Roscommon, with a salary of £60 per annum. In 1334, John de Roscommon was, on election, consecrated Bishop of Elphin. In 1341, the castle was taken by Turlogh, son of Felim O'Connor, which Felim was then a prisoner therein. In consequence of this act, a strong remonstrance, still of record, was laid before the king, informing His Majesty, amongst other matters, "that the castles of Roscommon and Randon had been taken by the enemy, because the treasurers had not paid the constable's fees, or paid them with great deductions, while, in their own accounts, they claimed credit as for the whole amount; and because great men usually get such appointments, who never set a foot in these castles, but discharged the duties by insufficient deputies, &c." O'Connor did not long retain his possession here; and in 1343, Richard Sprot, and Walter Wynter, were appointed by the Crown as joint constables, the former, as the record states, obtaining an allowance of ten marks, in satisfaction of a like sum, of which he had been robbed, as he was travelling towards the castle, and grievously wounded. In 1360, the town was destroyed by fire; and in 1395, Gregory Ileyan, Bishop of Kilmacduagh,



“A whale was cast upon the land of Borchí [Ulster], in the time of Fiach, the son of Hugh, King of Ulidia. It had three shining teeth in its head, and each tooth weighed fifty ounces. They were laid upon the altar of Bangor.”

was interred in the Dominican Friary ; he was one of those, who took the oath of fealty to Richard the Second in Drogheda. In 1444, Thady Mac Dermott, principal of the abbey, and — O’Flanagan, prior of the Dominican house here, died of an epidemic at Rome, whither they had gone on a pilgrimage. In the following year, Pope Eugene the Fourth, being made acquainted with the decay of the Dominican friary of Roscommon, granted certain indulgences, by Bull, to the faithful who would contribute for its reparation. In 1461, Hugh Turlough Oge O’Conor, sometimes described as “joint king of Connaught,” was interred in the abbey, as was Thady O’Conor, with great solemnities. In 1498, the castle was reduced by Gerald Earl of Kildare, when he strengthened its works ; nevertheless, it soon after fell into the hands of the O’Conor, who held it until 1566, when it was retaken for the Queen by Sir Henry Sydney, Lord Deputy, who placed Sir Thomas L’Estrange in it as governor, with a garrison ; and about that time, the possessions of the abbey and priory were granted to Sir Nicholas Malby. In 1576, Sir Henry Sydney wrote to the Council : “I stayed at Roscommon but a night, and during my abode there, O’Conor Don came unto me, whose ancestor, they say, was sometime called King of Connaught. The castle of Roscommon I took from him in my former government, whose ancestors possessed the same. Under his rule there are O’Berne and O’Flynn.” In 1599, Sir John Harrington, the translator of *Ariosto*, then on military service here, writes : “I have great cause to thank God, who has kept me so long in bodily health at Roscommon, where not so few as sixty died within the walls of the castle in which we lay, and some as lusty men as any that came out of England.” In 1612, a new charter was granted to this borough. The castle then, and subsequently, was held for the King by Sir Michael Earnley, with a detachment of the troops of the President of Connaught. In 1642 it

"723. Fergus, the son of Fotach, the son of Murdach, King of Connaught, died."

"724. Shipwreck of the inhabitants of Delvin Nuadhat<sup>(a)</sup>, on Lough Ree. There were thirty ships of living beings, and but eight of the whole company were saved."

made a gallant defence against the insurgents; but ultimately fell into their power; and they maintained its possession until 1652, when it surrendered to Colonel Reynolds, a Parliamentary officer. In 1661, on the restoration, Richard Jones, the eldest son of Viscount Ranelagh, was appointed its constable, with a fee of 3s. 4d. a day; and an allowance of 6d. per day, for each of twenty warders. In 1678, and 1682, chapters of the Dominicans were held in their establishment here; and in July, 1688, King James the Second granted a new charter to the borough, increasing the number of its burgesses from twelve to nineteen; and extending the jurisdiction of the manor court from five marks to five pounds, which alteration was adopted by the corporation. The provost named by that charter was John Burke, Esq.; and the nineteen burgesses were Richard Earl of Ranelagh, Theobald Viscount Dillon, Charles Kelly, Owen O'Connor, Theobald Dillon, James Talbot, John Dillon, William Talbot, John Kelly, John Crofton, Thomas Lovelace, Edmund Kelly, John Fallon, Christopher Irwin, John Hynda, John Geraghty, Hugh Kelly, Peter Pelly, and James Moore. In 1759, by a private Act of the Irish Parliament, the estates of the Earl of Ranelagh hereabout were vested in trustees, for the object of (*inter alia*) erecting two charity schools in or near the town of Roscommon. In 1790, the town suffered considerably by fire; and in 1800, the borough which had theretofore, since its erection, returned two members to Parliament, was disfranchised. This locality gives title of Earl to the noble family of Dillon.

(a) This was the ancient name given to that portion of the County Roscommon which lay between the Rivers Suck and Shannon, comprising the Baronies of Athlone and Moycarne.

The Four Masters suggest that this loss occurred in a naval engagement. The allusion to shipping suggests the relevance of some notice of the art of navigation, as it existed amongst the ancient Irish. It cannot be doubted, after the extended voyages and migrations of distant colonists to Ireland, the great commerce with that country, alluded to by Tacitus, as existing in his time, and evidently attributable to the Phœnicians, the masters of the seas for centuries, that the art of sailing must have been well understood there, at a much earlier period than that now under consideration. Claudian speaks of the naval expeditions of the Irish with importance:

“Totam cum Scotus Iernen  
Movit, et infesto spumavit, remige Tethyn;”

while Whitaker marks the same as a grand naval armament. After the introduction of Christianity, additional testimony is afforded in the annals, of native experience of navigation. St. Brendan is there stated to have accomplished several voyages to islands previously unvisited. Amongst these it is confidently stated that this Saint discovered Iceland, a circumstance brought nearer to probability, at least so far as the authority of the “*Antiquitates Celto-Scandinaviæ*” advances the tradition, by the account given of Irish books, as found there on the first Norwegian visit to that island. Van Troil, in his “Letters on Iceland,” and Arngrymus Jonas, in his history of that island, confirm this event; and the

inquiring reader will find more upon this subject in the learnedly edited work of the late Dr. O'Connor, the "*Rerum Hibernicarum Scriptores*" (vol. iv. p. 141). Saint Cormac, a disciple of Columba, about the same period, as Adamnan relates, undertook a laborious voyage from Erris-Damnon (in the present County Mayo), into the Atlantic Ocean ; and in the same work that records this adventurous excursion ("*Vita Columbæ*," lib. i. c. 6), Columba's vessel is spoken of, as assailed by mountains of waves yet gallantly riding out the storm. It is also worthy of statement, that, while the Annals of the Four Masters record a great naval engagement between the Irish of the north and west, in A. D. 728, Probus expressly speaks of ships of war, as of the seventh century. Tigernach mentions a great shipwreck off the coast of Ireland in 729, also a fleet in 733 ; and epithets, indicative of maritime knowledge, are in three or four instances applied by him to persons of note, within this period and subsequently. There is even much internal evidence of Irish naval victories obtained, after the Danish invasions, over these pirates of the northern seas, whose warlike invasions over seas were indeed astonishing, and whose ordinary barks were capable of containing 100 men.

"731. Donell, the son of Murrough, King of Ireland, died. Niall, 'of the Showers,' began his reign."

Donell, it will be remembered, was the conqueror at the battle of Magh-Trega (Kells), in 708. The

event of his death occurred at Iona, whither, according to the Annals of Inisfallen, he had gone upon a pilgrimage. He was, nevertheless, buried, say the Four Masters, at Durrow ; his successor, Niall, was styled "of the Showers," for the reasons mentioned *ante*, p. 113. This monarch, the thirtieth in the succession of Christian kings of Ireland, after a reign of seven years, resigned his crown, and embraced the monastic order at Iona, where he died, and was buried in eight years afterwards.

"736. Dubinrect, the son of Cathal, King of Connaught, died."

In three years after, Donogh, son of Daniel, became the 31st Christian king. His reign, according to the Annals of Inisfallen, was of seventeen years, but the Four Masters extend it to twenty-seven.

742. Tumultach, son of Murgaile, King of Connaught, died."

He held the territory of Magh Ai, according to the Four Masters.

"743. Ciaran, Abbot of Ballydoon(*a*), died."

(*a*) Ballindoon, as it is now termed, still presents ruins of some interest. It is situated seven miles north of Boyle, in the County Sligo, and immediately over Lough Arrow. As appears by the above notice, an abbey anciently existed here, but the walls which now remain did not belong to that primitive edifice, but to a Dominican monastery founded here in the fifteenth, or, according to others, in the commencement of the sixteenth century, by a member of the Mac Donogh family, then lords of Tyrerill. On

" 746. Niall, "of the Showers," son of Feargal, King of Ireland, died."

" 748. Donogh, son of Donall, King of Ireland, died.—Eight hundred years from the incarnation of our Lord(*a*); whence it is said it is a clear rule, that from the beginning of the world to the ascertained death of Donogh, the whole duration is five thousand and ten hundred years, excepting a year."

" 752. Murdoch, the son of Donnell, King of Meath, died."

" 753. The battle of Raba Conall(*b*), between the two

the Dissolution, the possessions of this house were granted to Sir Francis Crofton, from whom they passed, by mesne assignment, to Sir Robert King, Lord Kingsborough, and are vested by descent in Viscount Lorton. Although the ruins appear now unimportant, De Burgo states, that it excelled in beauty any other Dominican house in Ireland.

(*a*) This notice, occurring in an annal, that by a calculation of the initial and final K's at each event, in the chronology of the manuscript signifying a year, is yet made to refer to that of 748, would lead to the very natural inference, that the Scribe of the monastery had not exercised his official vigilance, and by the omission of K's in sundry places, had caused the chronology to retrograde, on a scale decreasing down to the year 939, in the Annals' arrangement, when it will be found to have been no less than seventy-two years behind true time. With this protest, however, it is deemed necessary to adhere to Doctor O'Connor's adjustment of dates.

(*b*) The precise situation of this locality cannot now be ascertained; but, as in the preceding year, Hugh, the son of Niall, who succeeded Donagh in the throne, had divided Meath between his two sons, the cause of this battle between the brothers may be conjectured; and it is not improbable that Rath-Connel, near Mullingar, which is situated nearly centrally in ancient Meath, was

sons of Donogh, where Elill fell, and Conchobar was victorious."

Hugh, the son of Niall of the Showers, was at this time king of Ireland. In the previous year, which, according to the more correct chronology of the Four Masters, was the year 797, the pirates of the north laid waste the holy island of Iona, when of clergy and laymen sixty-eight were slain by them. Unhappily this work of sanguinary sacrilege was but the omen of what Ireland was fated to endure in a few years, and for centuries after, by those ferocious freebooters; their plundering of the maritime parts of Leinster, and desolation of the island of Raghlin, off Antrim, having too irresistibly invited the forays of their rapacious countrymen. Previous to this era of their incursions (which, in true chronology, occurred early in the ninth century), Donatus thus beautifully describes Ireland and its people:

the fatal field of action; a field commemorated in history, by reason of a yet more influential conflict, which took place there in February, 1642, when Sir Richard Grenville, on his return after relieving Athlone, accompanied by its famished garrison and Protestant inhabitants, was there opposed by a force of 5,000, who had fortified the pass. The desperate valour of Sir Richard's troop, however, gained the day. The commander, General Preston's son, and many other prisoners, were taken, with eleven pair of colours. This victory, it may be observed, was of more especial importance in its influential effects on the hopes of the contending parties, as an old prophecy was then of current circulation, that the victors here should conquer all Ireland.

"Finibus occiduis describitur optima tellus,  
 Nomine et antiquis Scotia scripta libris;  
 Insula dives opum, gemmarum, vestis et auri,  
 Commoda corporibus, aere, sole, solo;  
 Melle fluit, pulchris et lacteis Scotia campis,  
 Vestibus atque armis, frugibus, arte, viris.  
 Ursorum rabies nulla est ibi sæva, leonum  
 Semina nec unquam Scotica terra tulit.  
 Nulla venena nocent, nec serpens serpit in herbâ,  
 Nec conquesta canit garrula rana lacu,  
 In quâ Scotorum gentes habitare merentur,  
 Inclyta gens hominum, milite, pace, fide."

After this highly interesting notice of a country peaceful and sequestered, what a frightfully appalling series of events succeeds, as if Donatus's picture had been sketched, when the glory of Ireland was setting; and all that too rapidly follows is mist and vapour, and intellectual cloudiness, illumined only by the torch of desolation, the fire of churches, convents, and towns, consumed into promiscuous ashes. The pirates of the north, Danes, Frisians, Norwegians, Swedes, and Livonians, organized those systematic predatory expeditions, which assimilated them to the descendants of Ishmael, their hand against every man and every man's hand against them. So devoted, indeed, were they to piracy, that they were found more numerous on the sea than on the land, and, as Arnold of Lubeck writes, in his "*Chronicon Slavorum*," "the whole people wore nothing but the habits of sailors, that they might be always ready to embark on the first signal." The



ruin they brought over Ireland, the destruction of its churches and its schools, the persecution of its religion, and demoralization of its people, are grievously evidenced in the Annals of the day, and yet more in the fallen state in which they appeared the century after the expulsion of their persecutors. Christianity had, before their coming, as Cambrensis admits, remained untainted and unshaken in Ireland, from its first establishment, but henceforward their clergy could only preserve their lives in the intricacy of woods, and bogs, and caverns. Yet is the chivalry of these expeditions matter of commendation with the northern historians, who triumphantly write, that their countrymen formed companies for adventurous piracy, and actually sanctioned their partnership by an oath; "thus," add their eulogists, "honourably acquiring wealth for themselves." In fact, villages of the north grew into cities, from the riches of these spoliations, as Lunden in Scania, and others, could be adduced to prove. The details of sacrilege and spoliation, inflicted on Ireland by these relentless marauders, during two centuries and a half, may be, in a word, described as unceasing and universal, while the temples of the Christian priesthood were the peculiar objects of their unholy hostility. Churches, abbeys, monasteries, with their belfries and shrines, were burned, or levelled to the ground; none of the old pre-existing wicker or wooden architecture could survive the flames of the destroyer, and, in many instances, when these simple edifices were renewed by

the zealous clergy, they but invited reiterated ruin. Amongst those, whose utter destruction is recorded by the annalists, are named Clondalkin, Clonmacnois, Castledermot, Clones, Devenish, Dysart, Glendalough, Iniscattery, Iniscaltra, Kells, Kildare, Kilkullen, Lusk, Monasterboyce, Swords, and others, at each of which stood, and still stands, its round tower. Other, but scarcely more durable edifices, were constructed in their shadow, perished, and were renewed, to the time of the Reformation; yet, from surmises on the respective architecture of the now extant ruins of comparatively modern stone little cells, rather than churches, there are those (see *ante*, pp. 33-4) who would infer, that the noble round towers contiguous did not precede them, but were erected simultaneously, and merely as their belfries!

“Donall, the son of Hugh of the red neck, died.

“763. Murgius, the son of Tumultach, King of Connaught, died.

“767. Hugh, son of Niall of the Showers, was slain. Conchobar, the son of Donogh, began his reign.

“781. Conchobar, the son of Donogh, King of Ireland, died.”

He was the thirty-third Christian king, and, during the fourteen years of his reign, the kingdom continued to be harassed with the continual irruptions of the Danes; the first desolation of Armagh is particularly noted by the Four Masters, as having occurred within a year of his death. The ill success of every

effort to expel the invaders is said to have so affected him, that he died of grief. His successor is thus noticed:

“782. Niall Caille commenced his reign. Dermot, the son of Tumultach, King of Connaught, died.

“792. Fergus, the son of Fothaid, King of Connaught, died. Maolruan, King of Meath, father of Melaghlin, who was afterwards King of Ireland, died.

“794. Turgesius made an expedition on Lough Ree(a),

(a) This spacious lake, covering an extent of seventeen English miles in length, by about six in breadth, stands 114 feet above the level of the sea, and is bounded, on almost every side, by fine swelling grounds, while its shores and numerous islands still present many fine remains of ecclesiastical architecture. Bardic history records its first appearance, as having occurred in the year of the world 3506, according to the chronology of the Four Masters. In 750, Donnell, the son of Murrough, King of Ireland, obtained a victory over “the fleet” of the people of Delvin on this water. In 797 it was swept by the hostile forces of Connaught. The same Annalists mention the death of Ferral, son of Carney, “Prince of Lough Ree,” in 821; and that of the “tannist of Lough Ree,” in 881. The Danes of Limerick wasted and plundered its islands in 920, and again in 922. In 935, Aulaff, the principal of the Danes, engaged a refractory party of his own countrymen on Lough Ree, broke their ships, and captured their leaders. In 946, Tomar, Earl (Jarl) of the Danes, came to Limerick, and thence proceeded to burn the monasteries of Iniscaltra, Muckinnis, and Clonmacnois, and all the islands of the Shannon and Lough Ree, whence he went to Meath, and devastated it from one extremity to the other. In 970 Brien Boromhe, with a fleet of three hundred “little ships,” came upon this lough, and devastated Meath and Connaught with great slaughter, despoiling Roscommon to Athleague, and northwards, until he was met by

and a fort upon it was approved of by him. He was captured by Maolsechnaill, the son of Maolruana, and was drowned in Lough Uair(a).

The life of this daring pirate, and his predatory atrocities in Ireland, here rapidly glanced over, are fully noticed in the "History of Drogheda," vol. ii. pp. 25, &c.

"795. Cathal, the son of Ailell, King of Hy-Maine(b), died. Niall, son of Hugh (i. e. Niall Caille), King of Ireland, died.

Niall had reigned thirteen years, when he was drowned in the River Callan, near Armagh, according to the Annalists of Inisfallen, who suggest, as

Ferral O'Ruarc, at the River Fair-Glin, near Slieve-an-Iran, and obliged to repossess the Shannon. In 987, the Munster people came "with their sails," upon this lake, joined by the Danes of Waterford, against the people of Connaught, but the latter were victorious, losing, however, Murgius, the son of Conchobar, and "future King of Connaught." In 1137 Turlogh O'Conor led a fleet over the Shannon, and on Lough Ree, where he had a severe conflict with Tiernan O'Ruarc, and the combined "fleets" (as they are styled) of the people of Meath and Teffia, led by the King of Ireland.

(a) The place, where this execrable tyrant fell a victim to national vengeance, is here, as in the Annals of Ulster, stated to be Lough Uair, now Lough Hoyle, north of Mullingar, while the Annals of Inisfallen, and other chronicles, assign Lough Ennel, south of Mullingar, as the scene of the catastrophe.

(b) This territory of the County Galway, bordering on the County Roscommon, and, at times, by military acquisition, extended into it, was the ancient inheritance of the O'Kellys and O'Dalys.

adopted by other native historians, that, previous to his death, Turgesius had assumed the sovereignty of the island, and maintained it until his own death. The better authorities, however, do not recognize this usurpation, and, accordingly, the *Annals of Boyle*, having noted the decease of Niall, in 795, record his immediate successor thus briefly:

“796. Maelsechnall, King of all Ireland, died. Hugh, the son of Niall, began his reign.”

This Hugh had embittered the last moments of his predecessor, by confederating with the Danes, to devastate Meath. In the fourth year, however, of the reign of this Hugh, the *Four Masters* record, that he assembled the available forces of the north, and, with their assistance, laid waste all the fortresses which the Danes had erected or acquired, between the River Foyle and Dalradia, on the coast of Antrim, “carrying off their riches and cattle, and as much as he could of precious articles. The Danes mustered their troops to oppose him, but were defeated with such loss, that 400 heads were collected in one place, to present to the King of Ireland.

“801. Maoldun, the son of Hugh, King of Alichia(a), dies.”

(a) Alichia, more nationally termed Aileach, situated about three miles north of Derry, was the citadel of petty kings, to whom was subjected Tyrone and the north-western portion of Ireland; and immediately near it is still shewn a stone, which, though now called St. Columba's stone, appears, by strong evidence, to be that upon which those kings were inaugurated. One

About this year (in true chronology) Charlemagne placed the universities of Paris and Ticinum under

of the ancient biographers of St. Patrick says, he visited Aileach and blessed a stone there, as that upon which the future kings and princes should be ordained, and, while a remarkable passage in Spenser states, that the Irish were accustomed "to place him, that should be their captain, on a stone always reserved for that purpose, and placed commonly on a hill, in some of which I have seen formed and engraven a foot, which, they say, was the measure of their first captain's foot, whereon he standing" took the oaths, &c.; it is remarkable that the stone in question, according to a drawing given of it in the Ordnance Memoir of Londonderry, exhibits the sculptured impression of two feet of the length of ten inches each. The palace, if it may be so called, of the northern kings here, was erected towards the close of the third century. In 675 it was wasted by Finnachta, surnamed "of the white hair." In 900 it was prostrated to its foundations by the Danes, who, on its subsequent renovation, despoiled it in 937, carrying off Murtough, son of Niall, its king, whom they kept prisoner until ransomed. He it was who, in a few years afterwards (but, according to the chronology of those Annals, at a much earlier period), with a chosen band of 1200 heroes, "traversed Ireland in a political circuit, for the assertion of his reversionary claim to the sovereignty of Ireland." The Annalists record his exacting tributes and hostages from Dublin and the provinces of Ireland, and that, after entertaining the hostages for nine months, he gave them up to Donogh then King of Ireland, possibly as an assurance, that by the expedition he meant no hostility to the existing government, while the other conceded his future right thereto. The circuit so made is the subject of an interesting topographical poem, published by the Irish Archæological Society. In 939 Brian Boromhe, with a great body of his subjects and auxiliary Danes, marched to Armagh, there to receive the hostages of the king of Aileach. In 1017, as the Annals of Inisfallen record, Flaherty O'Neill obtained the kingdom of Alichia, and reigned over northern Ireland, by right of

the guidance of two Irishmen, Albin and Clements, respectively; and these were the individuals celebrated by Rossius, for having presented themselves

seniority. In 1082 the King of Alichia dethroned the ruler of Eastern Ulster, exacted hostages from his more immediate subjects, and afterwards devastated the district of Fingal unto Dublin. In 1097, Munster was invaded by the son of the King of Alichia, in revenge of which Murtogh O'Brien, with the forces of Munster, in 1101, assailed his fortress, and, as his own royal residence at Cancora had been overturned on the former occasion, he on this levelled Alichia to the foundations. Henceforth it ceased to be a seat of government, but the petty kings of the Northern Hy-Niall line still assumed their title, as of Aileach, in the same manner that the monarchs of the Southern Hy-Nialls retained that of the deserted Tara. In 1119 the death of a prince of the house of Alichia, Niall, the son of Donald O'Loughlin, is commemorated with deep regret by the Annalists, who extol him not less for his mental than his personal attractions; not more for the nobility of his birth than the pre-eminence of his genius: the more martial exploits of his brother Conchobar, and particularly an expedition which he led, through the Curlew mountains, into Connaught, are also the theme of great eulogy. The claim of Murtough O'Loughlin of Alichia, to the supreme monarchy of Ireland in 1148, was recognized by the chieftains and nobles of the North; and, on the death of Turlogh O'Conor, he succeeded to the throne; the government, however, on his decease, returned to the O'Conors; and although, on the accession of the unfortunate Roderic O'Conor, a claimant started up of the Alichia line, his pretensions were overruled, and the contested title finally conceded to the O'Conors. The O'Loughlins, nevertheless, maintained their local sovereignty of Alichia for a considerable time after; and the successful incursions of Donald O'Loughlin, King of Alichia, on the districts of Ulster, occupied by the English, were obstinately continued, until he lost his life in the cause, and was honourably interred at Armagh.

in the French market-place, crying out that they had learning for sale, and, if any one was desirous of it, that he should come to them. Of their, and their co-mates' exertions, Erricus Antisodorensis expresses the most grateful eulogies. The number of such continental missionaries, it may well be supposed, was greatly increased by the Danish persecutions in Ireland. Vernulæus, in his work, "*De Propagatione Fidei Christianæ in Belgio per Sanctos ex Hiberniâ*," details the most happy results from their preaching in Mechlin, Brabant, Flanders, Artois, Hainault, Namur, Leyden, Gilderland, Holland, Friesland, and Luxembourg. In Austria, according to Ludewig, monasteries were founded by the Dukes, to which only Irishmen were eligible, "on account of their long and acknowledged piety;" and Marianus Scotus, and Florence of Worcester, vie in their encomiums of the monastery of Irish missionaries, established at Cologne. About this time, too, Dungallus, whom Colgan shews to have been a native of Ireland, left his country and retired into a French monastery, where he taught philosophy and astronomy with the greatest reputation; he wrote an epistle to Charlemagne, on a solar eclipse of 810, which is found in D'Achery and the "*Bibliotheca Patrum*." There are also, in further evidence of the astronomical acquirements of the Irish at that period, accurate notices in their Annals, of eclipses of the sun and moon in 864; of the moon in 807 and 877; of the sun in 810 and 884; and the appearance of a comet is referred



to 911. The classic and philosophic Johannes Scotus Erigena is not to be forgotten here, the friend and companion of Charles the Bald, and, if history does not confound identity, the preceptor also of Alfred the Great, and the restorer of learning in the university of Oxford.

“802. The battle of the church of the fire(*a*), by Hugh,

(*a*) This designation applies to Kildare, a locality of the highest antiquity, which gives its name to the parish, county, and diocese in which it is situated, and where St. Conlaeth is reputed to have founded a church, at the close of the fifth century. It certainly was considered one of the primitive religious foundations of Ireland, and as such ranked as one of those mother churches, many of which were deemed, in subsequent periods, bishoprics, although few, prior to the tenth century, were other than convents of Regular Canons, who resided in or near their churches, with their pupils or disciples. Under such organization, Kildare was one of the ancient schools or academies of Ireland, and continued so to be during the middle ages. Here, about the year 484, St. Brigid, who is said to have received the veil from St. Patrick, founded a Nunnery, and from her time was a species of vestal light continued, burning in the fire-house of Kildare, which gave name to the locality. Cambrensis makes mention of the observance, and its existence is indisputably proved in the Annals of this place. In 638 Aodh Dubh (Black Hugh), King of Leinster, abdicated his throne, and became a monk here; he was afterwards chosen Abbot and Bishop of Kildare, which was also, at that time, the metropolis of Leinster, and so continued until Ferns came to be preferred. In 770 the town and abbey were consumed by fire, and in four years afterwards were subjected to a similar visitation. In 830 Ceallach Mac Bran, an Irish chieftain of that vicinage, plundered both the town and abbey of Kildare, and put to death many of the clergy. In five years afterwards, the Abbot of Ar-

son of Niall, King of Tara, and by Conchobar, the son of Thady, King of Connaught, against the O'Nialls of Bregia and

magh being on a visit, with a number of his priests, here, another Irish chieftain, with an armed force, seized this church, and carried the clergy into captivity. In 836, a Danish fleet, consisting of thirty ships, arrived in the River Liffey, as did another in the River Boyne; after plundering all the intermediate territories, they destroyed Kildare by fire and sword, and carried away the rich shrines of St. Brigid and St. Conlaeth. In 870 the King of Leinster, resigning his monarchy, became Abbot here. In 883 the Danes again spoiled this town and its religious houses, taking captives the Abbot and 280 of his fraternity; the same people committed similar depredations in 887, 889, 895 and 920. In 907 Cormac, Archbishop of Cashel and King of Munster, bequeathed his horse to this Abbey, with one ounce of gold and an embroidered vestment; various spoliations by the Danes succeeded in rapid succession, and particularly, in 962, was the town entirely destroyed by this people, and the greater number of the inhabitants carried off to slavery: yet, notwithstanding these frequent losses, the collegiate school of Kildare still continued, and Professors constantly resided here. In 1016 the Danes of Dublin, under the command of Sitric the son of Aulaff, laid waste the town, and in two years after, it was, with the exception of one house, consumed by lightning; it was also destroyed by fire in 1038 and 1040. The buildings which, after such frequent depredations and losses, were rebuilt, must necessarily have consisted of watted or wicker work, yet, it would seem, of exceeding beauty, as Venerable Bede himself bears testimony, where he speaks of the Irish wooden architecture, as nationally excelling all other; they were, however, consequently easily destroyed, either by premeditated or accidental fire. In 1050 it was burned, with its "stone church;" again in 1071, 1089, and 1099. In 1135, Dermot Mac Murrough, King of Leinster, forcibly carried off the Abbess from her cloister, and compelled her to marry one of his own people; it is said 170 of the inhabitants of this town and abbey were de-

against the people of Leinster, and against an army of foreigners. Nine hundred, or more, fell ; amongst whom were

stroyed in the perpetration of this outrage. In 1152 Finan O'Gorman, Abbot of Kildare, assisted at the synod held by Cardinal Paparo. Immediately after the English invasion, Strongbow, the inheritor of Leinster, made Kildare his residence, and erected the first castle here. When subsequently Prince John appointed Alard Fitz-William his Chamberlain for Ireland, he assigned, as perquisites of his office, that he should have his entertainment, in Waterford, at the house of the Bishop; in Dublin, at that of the Archbishop; and likewise his entertainment near the Castle of Kildare, with certain liberties of hunting. In 1220, Henry de Loundres, Archbishop of Dublin, put out the sacred fire above alluded to, and which was theretofore styled 'the inextinguishable;' the ruins of the fire-house are still pointed out. In 1229 the Cathedral was repaired and beautified, at great expense, by the Bishop Ralph de Bristol; and in 1260 the Lord William de Vesci, then proprietor of Kildare, commenced the erection of a Franciscan Friary on the south side of this town, but the building was completed by the Fitzgerald family, to whom the King granted the town and manor of Kildare, with most of de Vesci's other possessions, in consequence of de Vesci having refused to decide a quarrel between him and the Lord of Offaley, by that barbarous origin of modern duelling, the wager of battle. In this friary, Gerald Lord Offaley was interred in 1286; and in 1290, another friary was founded here for Carmelites. In 1295, Calvagh O'Connor, having taken arms against the English, stormed the Castle of Kildare, burned the rolls and tallies belonging to the manor, and wasted the adjacent country. He was, however, subsequently defeated by the Lord Offaley, and compelled to return to his own country. In 1308, the Lord de Bermingham was interred in the Franciscan Friary, and in the following year a Parliament was held here, at which time William de Wellesley was constable of the castle: he subsequently received a grant from the treasury, for his services in defending that castle

Flan Mac Conaing, King of Bregia, and many other nobles and humbler individuals.

against Edward Bruce. About the year 1316, the castle and town, with certain advowsons and liberties, were granted in tail male to Thomas Fitzgerald, who was then also created Earl of Kildare, and dying soon after, was interred in the Franciscan Friary, as were his successors the second, third, and fourth Earls of Kildare. In 1335, the Earl's lands, being, during a minority, in the hands of the Crown, were granted in custody to John D'Arcey, the issues and profits to be applied towards the repairs of the castle, and of other fortresses. In 1336, the warden of the Franciscan Friary having been sent on an embassy to Scotland, to treat with John of the Isles, on behalf of the King of England, had a treasury order for his expenses, to the amount of sixty shillings. In 1344, by mandate, reciting that the O'Tooles, O'Byrnes, Mac Murroughs, and O'Nolans had risen to oppose the English, the seneschal of the liberty of Kildare was commanded to proclaim, that none should aid them with victuals, horses, or arms; that one peace or one war should prevail throughout the whole land, and that each adjacent country should aid whichever was invaded or harassed by Irish enemies. In 1395, the king commanded his clerk of the Hanaper to issue letters of protection to the Prioress and Convent of St. Brigid "of the fire-house of Kildare," without fees or charges for same. Previous to this time, the town had been incorporated, and in 1436, James White, a burgess, merchant, petitioned the king, stating, that in consequence of his refusing to give coigne or victuals to Cahir O'Connor, an Irish enemy, said O'Connor had twice burned his house, and he thereby offered to build a battlemented fortress in the town, if he had liberty to draw stones and materials for that purpose "from Rowe's place, and from the ancient walls of Smith's place, in that town," for the completion of said work. In 1438 an Act was passed [unprinted], authorizing the Earl of Kildare to make strong fortresses and fosses in his manor of Kildare, and obliging the inhabitants of the adjacent baronies to serve in that duty as workmen.

"807. Imar, King of the Northmen, and of all Ireland and Britain, closed his life."

Such is the pompous style, by which this universal and too fortunate Danish plunderer sought to be designated. The immediately ensuing notice of the Annals, however, evinces, that he was not recognized as a sovereign in the succession of the Irish Kings.

"813. Hugh, the son of Niall, King of Ireland, died, when Flan, the son of Maolsechnall, began his reign."

This Flan was the 38th Christian King of Ireland, and during his reign, as might be supposed, the other Annalists relate several predatory ravages of the Danes, and their encounters with the native princes.

"816. Conchobar, the son of Teigue, King of Connaught, died."

The Annals of Ulster, which, in their chronology, postpone the era of this prince to the close of this

In 1459 the castle was re-edified by that excellent viceroy, Richard Duke of York, who was then seised, of the earldom of Ulster and the Lordships of Connaught and Meath, by descent from Lionel Duke of Clarence. In 1522, Doctor Lane, Bishop of Kildare, is said to have been buried here. In the wars of Elizabeth's reign this town was reduced to a state of utter ruin, and its ecclesiastical possessions were granted to lay patentees; it, however, sent two members, John Wellesley and William Shergold, to her Parliament of 1585. In the wars of 1641, the cathedral was nearly destroyed, and the steeple beaten down by cannon. In 1643 the town was garrisoned under the command of the Earl of Castlehaven. Colonel Jones took it upon quarter in 1647, but it was soon after re-taken by the Irish, who held it until the beginning of June, 1649, when it was taken possession of by the Earl of Ormond.

century, describe him as king of the three districts or divisions of Connaught, adding, that his decease occurred at a very advanced stage of life. From him, the present O'Connor Don traces his pedigree in direct lineage, being, according to his deduction, the heir male of said Conchobar, in the twenty-eighth degree of descent ; any abstract, however, of the achievements of that family, or of those of O'Neill, or O'Brien, cannot be introduced here ; their memoirs should, in truth, be the histories of the provinces which they respectively governed.

" 825. Maolfabail, son of Clerich, King of Aidne<sup>(a)</sup>, died. A sea monster (*banscal*), was cast out of the water upon Albania, it measured 195 feet in length, 16 in width, six in the length of the fins, and six in that of the snout, while the belly was all white.

" 834. Teigue, son of Conchobar, King of Connaught, died.

" 838. Violation of the church of Kells, by Flan, the son of Maolsechnall, in hostility to Donough (his own son) ; and many were slain around the oratory."

On the introduction of Christianity, communities were collected, and little towns were established, round the cells of holy men, as at Kells, near that of St. Columba. The sites selected were, for the rea-

(a) Aidne was the ancient name of the district now defined as the barony of Kiltartan, in the County Galway ; it became subsequently a portion of the territory of Clanrickard. The scenery of this locality, especially within the vicinity of Gort and Lough Cooter Castle, the seat of the nobleman to whom that town gives title of Viscount, is particularly interesting and picturesque.

sons before alluded to (*ante*, pp. 25–6), very generally in the vicinity of these round towers, which had been theretofore appropriated, as at Kells, to the Pagan religion of Ireland ; but it must be here repeated, that the ecclesiastical ruins, yet remaining on the sites of such towns, are not the structures of the first foundation, and it would rather appear that, up to this period, little change occurred in the materials of the ecclesiastical edifices, which, like those of the olden civil architecture, were principally wattles and boards ; timber was peculiarly abundant for such purposes, and could be most readily combined with neatness and despatch. Concubran, where he writes of the old chapel of Kilslieve, in the County of Armagh, describes it as a church “constructed of squared pieces of wood according to the Scoto-Irish manner, because they do not ordinarily erect stone walls.” Hence is it that Bede insinuates, Columba founded his church of Derry in a place called “the Plain of Oaks,” from the convenience afforded by the forest of that timber growing thereabout. So does he, in the same book of his “Ecclesiastical History,” describe a church raised by Finan, an Irish Bishop of Lindisfarne, in that island, not of stone, but, “according to the fashion of the Irish,” of worked oak and covered with reeds.

The Annals of the Four Masters record the arrival, about this time, of two fleets of Normans, one in the Boyne, and another in the Liffey, who, in their depredations, exceeded even the rapacity of the

Danes, carrying off shrines, herds, and captives from every quarter, until their precursors in the work of desolation, feeling as if they alone had a prescriptive right in its continuance, for once united with the unfortunate natives against these intruders, and ultimately drove them from the island.

“Joseph, Abbot of Clonmacnois, who is called Joseph of Lough Conn(*a*), died.

“842. Battle of Bally-muguin(*b*), fought by the people of

(*a*) This fine sheet of water, situated wholly in the County Mayo, extends fifteen miles in length, by five in breadth, and is interspersed throughout with islands, on which are the ruins of castles and monasteries. At its south-eastern extremity is Lough Cullen, but united to it by a narrow strait, over which a fine bridge was erected to facilitate the communication between Sligo and Castlebar. The waters of these lakes ebb or flow to or from each other with apparent capriciousness, sometimes rushing with great force, through the channel, into Lough Cullen, at others, with equal force, from that lake into Lough Conn. The phenomenon appears explicable by the alternation of floods in the two reservoirs, from the variance of temperature.

(*b*) The locality here designated is Ballymoon, in the barony of Idrone, near the ancient district of Moy Albe, and about four miles from Leighlin. To the tourist it still presents the remains of a bawn or castle of the Cavanaghs, constructed to secure their herds, and defend the pass from the mountains. The walls, originally about thirty feet in height, are eight in thickness, and between the outer and inner ran a gallery, to which light was admitted from without by loop-holes, cruciform at their top, and from within by large Gothic windows. The buildings enclose an area of upwards of 100 feet square, having two square towers, one at north, the other at the south, and a cut stone gateway on the west.



Leinster, and by the people of that half of Ireland called Leath Conn, against those of Munster, in which fell Cormac, the son of Cuilenan, supreme King of Cashel, and chief noble of Ireland; Flan, son of Maolsechnall, and Cervall, the son of Murigean, King of Leinster, and Cathal, the son of Conchobar, King of Connaught, were victorious. From Adam to the fall of Cormac, was an interval of 6110 years."

The occasion of this fight is a subject of much interest in the Irish Annals. Cormac Mac Cuilenan, Archbishop of Cashel, had established himself, a short time previously, in the monarchy of Munster, to which he was entitled by hereditary right. Soon after his accession he was induced to undertake a war against the province of Leinster, principally on the instigation of Flaherty, the Abbot of Iniscattery, who urged him to the fatal enterprize, representing that he was entitled to a tribute from this province, it being partly situated in Leath Mogha, while it continued to pay tribute to the supreme King Flan, as chief of Leath Conn. It is related, that although Cormac yielded to the instigations of the Abbot, he yet had such a presentiment of ill success, that he declared his will, and nominated the petty prince of Thomond as his successor; he also directed many valuable bequests to different religious establishments throughout the kingdom, but principally to Ardfinnan, Lismore, Emly, Glendalough, Kildare, Armagh, and Scattery. The king of Leinster was fully prepared to meet the attack, being aided by the

monarch Flan, who led his forces there in person. The battle that ensued was, from the first, disastrous to the army of Munster, which was completely routed, and many of its leaders slain, among whom were the petty king of Kerry, Kelly Mac Carrel, king of Ossory and Coleman, Abbot of Cinnety. Cormac himself, after great feats of valour, was killed by the fall of his horse in the retreat. It is chronicled, that after the battle, his body being found by some of the Leinster soldiers, they cut off his head, and brought it to the monarch, who declared his disapproval of their ferocity, and provided for his honourable interment. Thus fell Cormac, the son of Cuilenan, in a manner too frequently exemplified in Irish history, the victim of ill-directed ambition and fatally fomented dissension; yet did he leave behind him, in his celebrated compilation, the *Psalter of Cashel*, and in the beautiful edifice called *Cormac's chapel*, still existing on the rock of Cashel (if in truth that building was erected by him), eloquent testimonies of his learning and piety. After this battle the victor Flan caused a stone church to be built, as an offering, at Clonmacnois.

“Carril, the son of Murigean, King of Leinster, died.”

In two years afterwards the Four Masters relate, that Donald, the son of Hugh, the before-mentioned King of Ireland, and who is himself styled Prince of Alichia, took the pilgrim's staff, and embraced a monas-

tic life, thereby relinquishing to his brother, Niall Glundubh, that claim of succession, whose occurrence is the subject of the ensuing notice.

“849. Flan, the son of Maolsechnall, King of Ireland, died. Niall Glundubh [i. e. of the black knee] commenced his reign.”

Flan had reigned thirty-eight years. His successor, Niall, the 39th Christian king of Ireland, held a troubled government during only three, the Danes constantly ravaging and destroying the country, until he fell in the vain attempt to resist them, as related in the next notice.

“852. Battle of Dublin, in which fell Niall Glundubh.”

His successor was Donogh, the son of King Flan, in whose time a memorable naval victory was obtained over the Danes in the Bay of Dundalk; in the eighth year of his reign was born Brian Boroimhe.

“858. Cathal, the son of Conchobar (Conor), King of Connaught, died.

“871. A victory obtained by Congalach, the son of Maol-mithich, over the foreigners.”

The scene of this achievement was in the vicinity of Dublin, whereupon the conqueror, according to the Annals of Inisfallen, burned that city, despoiled the Danes there, and carried off all they possessed of cattle, riches, gold, and silver, and possessed himself of the city. The same annalists record the appearance of fiery pillars in the air, in the following

year, and a very general conversion of the Danes of Dublin, during the two ensuing years.

“875. Murcertach, the son of Niall, Righdamna [i. e. presumptive heir to the Crown] of Ireland, was slain.”

He fell in battle against the Danes of Dublin, of whose race he was an unwearied and successful scourge. This is the individual mentioned *ante*, at the year 801, in the note on Alichia, of which he was king, and, as such, ruler of the greater portion of Ulster, while he was also next heir to the throne. His memorable circuit of Ireland was made two years previously.

“882. Battle of Munebrocan(a) against the Danes, in which fell Roderic O’Cananan, and many others.”

This Roderic was of the northern Hy-Nialls, and, according to the rule of the succession, alternating at that time between the northern and southern lines of this noble family, he was, as expressed by the Four Masters, the king presumptive of Ireland; he fell in

(a) The precise scene of this battle even Dr. Lanigan has not been able to ascertain, but the above name seems to refer derivatively to Breoghan of Munster, that is, to the present County of Waterford, which was known by this name then and long previously, and whose inhabitants are marked on Ptolemy’s map as the Brigantes. On the arrival of the English the great part of this district was divided amongst the Poers, Sherlocks, Wyse, D’Altons, Tobins, Walls, Waddings, &c., feudatory tenants of Henry the Second, while some of the native clans were permitted to retain the remainder.

the first onset, but one thousand of his Danish opponents were slain on the field, and their king, Godfred, only escaped by flight, with a few of his adherents.

“Callachan, King of Cashel, died.”

“Callachan,” writes Moore, in reference to this faithless prince, “presents a specimen of Irish character, such as unfortunately has seldom been wanting in the country, from the days of Agricola to the present. Fighting almost constantly on the side of the Northmen, Callachan imitated also those spoilers of his country, in their worst excesses of devastation; and in one instance, when the venerable monastery of Clonmacnois had been cruelly pillaged and sacked by them, it was again visited with similar horrors, in the same year, by the King of Cashel. With a like disregard both of his country and her religion, Callachan, assisted by the Danes of Waterford, made an irruption into the district of Meath, and sacrilegiously plundering the Abbey of Clonenagh and the ancient church of Killachie, carried off from those retreats two holy abbots as prisoners.”

“884. Congalach, the son of Maolmithic, King of Ireland, was slain. Daniel began his reign.”

This Congalach was the successor of Donogh, the son of Flan, and the interval of his sovereignty was one of constant disturbance, as well through the unwearied oppression of the Danes, as by reason of the dissensions that prevailed among the native

princes. He was, nevertheless, active in his exertions to counteract these ruinous visitations, until at last, the foreigners having concentrated their forces at Armagh, he assembled a strong body of men, and marched against them, but there was he slain ; whereupon Daniel, who was grandson of Niall Glundubh, the 39th Christian King of Ireland, succeeded as the 42nd. This reign was no less disturbed than that of his predecessor by the ravages of the Danes.

“ Teigue, the son of Cathal, King of Connaught, died.

“ 894. Ferral O'Ruarc(*a*) was slain and beheaded.”

(*a*) This Ferral O'Ruarc, Lord of Brefny, now the County Leltrim, is the first who assumed the surname, and the ancestor of all the branches of that once powerful Irish sept, while he claimed descent himself from Eochaid Moighmedon, King of Ireland in the fourth century, by reason of which antiquity of lineage he is, in most of the annals and poems, described as “ Senia.” He was, a few years previously, the active leader, by whose resistance the O'Briens were, after a severe defeat at Slieve-an-Iran, obliged to relinquish a predatory invasion of his country, and is sometimes styled King of Connaught. His son Arthur was one of the chiefs who, with his sept, attended O'Melaghlin, King of Ireland, at the Shannon, there to receive the hostages of Connaught. He afterwards, at the head of the army of Brefny, devastated Clonmacnois and Clonfert, in hostility to Hugh O'Connor, then king of that province, by whom he was, however, defeated, and many of his adherents were slain on the Shannon. His son, Hugh O'Ruarc, fatally avenged this disastrous day in 1067, and slew O'Conor. In 1078, according to the Annals of Inisfallen, Murtoogh O'Brien, while King of Ireland, encamped on the plains of Fiachra (Clanrickard), until he banished the inhabitants of Magh-Ai and Moy-

“901. Conchobar, *i. e.* Conor, the son of Teigue, King of Connaught, died.”

lurg into Brefny, when O'Ruarc came into his camp, and Murtogh gave to him the sovereignty of Connaught, excepting the districts of Fiachra Hy Mania (the O'Kellys' country), and Luigne (that of the O'Haras). In 1084, Donogh O'Ruarc, another son of the aforesaid Arthur, invaded Leinster, but was defeated by the natives, who were aided by the O'Briens and the people of Ossory. The head of Donogh was carried in triumph to Limerick. In 1149 another Ferrall O'Ruarc died, Prince of Brefny : he was uncle to Tiernan O'Ruarc, the abduction of whose wife by Dermot Mac Murrough is said to have induced the English invasion. The dominion of that Tiernan then extended from the County Leitrim to Kells, in Meath. In 1157 he attended, as Prince of Brefny, at the synod held by Gelasius, the first Archbishop of Armagh, in Mellefont. He was also present, in the same character, at the celebrated assembly of clergy and princes convened by Roderick O'Conor in Athboy—the last legislative meeting held by an Irish king. When Strongbow and his followers were besieged in Dublin, Tiernan O'Ruarc, with his forces, took his position north of the harbour, near Clontarf, and in a vigorous assault at that quarter lost his son. In 1222 Walter de Lacy affected to grant to Philip de Angulo all the lands of O'Ruarc in Brefny, but in truth that principality was, until the reign of Elizabeth, held independently by its ancient dynasty. In the fifteenth century Tiernan Mor O'Ruarc was elected its prince. In 1508 Margaret, daughter of Lord O'Brien, and “wife of Eugene Lord O'Ruarc,” founded a house for Franciscans at Creevelea, *alias* Bally-ruarc. In June, 1576, Sir Henry Sydney, then Lord Deputy of Ireland, writing from the Castle of Dublin, says: “There came unto me thither, shortly after Easter, O'Ruarc, O'Donel, O'Conor Sligo, &c. And first for O'Ruarc : I found him the proudest man that ever I dealt with in Ireland, and using him thereafter told him, that as he was the queen's subject, and ought to hold his land of her, so he should behave himself as a subject, and for his land

“ 905. Murtough, the son of Daniel O’Niall [the King], and Congalach, the son of Daniel, who was the son of Congalach, were slain by Aulaff, the son of Sitric.”

yield both rent and service, or else I would place another in the same ; he said he would be as good a subject as always his ancestors had been, and spake very much good of them and himself, and would pay such rent and service for his country, as was agreed upon between the governor and his father, and alleged that he had a patent at his house for his land. I answered him (as indeed it was true), that I was ignorant thereof ; but upon search I found the same entered in the eldest Council Book that ever was made here, in the 33rd year of King Henry the Eighth, Sir Anthony St. Leger being then Deputy, by which he bound himself to pay to the King twenty pounds Irish yearly, with the service of some horsemen and footmen, as by the same appeareth, of which neither his father nor he ever paid anything ; and that he confessed, offering to compound for the arrearages, and to continue that rent and service, which I made light of, and lighter of the former composition, and would not agree under three hundred marks yearly. Besides service and finding men of war, he offered six score pounds sterling, all which I refused, lest he, being so great a man as he is reputed to be, an over-light composition with him might be a precedent of great hindrance to the Queen, in compounding with others, as well in Connaught as Ulster. Finally, he humbly desired that there might be sent into his country discreet and indifferent Commissioners, to view his country, and to certify truly the waste and barrenness thereof ; and thereupon to take order, and not before : hereupon we agreed, and that to be done in August next. . . . He hath since both written and sent to me very humbly, that I shall find him more obedient in his own country than I did in this city, and thus much for O’Ruarc.” In April, 1578, the same viceroy writes: “ For Connaught it sufficeth that your Majesty’s revenue there is increased to the yearly sum of £1237, and that the Colonel (Sir Nicholas Malby) hath universal obedience, service, and



At this year the Annals of the Four Masters relate the prodigy of two suns, as seen together in one

rent from the particular lords of every country, and captains of every surname, whereof O'Ruarc, being more slack than the rest, and noted for pride amongst all the Irish, is at this instant, by a private band of footmen, sent thither by Sir Nicholas Malby, distressed, his men slain, his chief castle won from him, the ward all put to the sword, and he, in all humility, submitteth himself and appealeth to me, your Deputy, for order between him and the Colonel. Upon examination of which matter it appeareth, that this breach between Sir Nicholas Malby and O'Ruarc grew upon intelligence, that there were certain coiners of money maintained by O'Ruarc, which the Colonel sent for, and were not delivered by O'Ruarc, for correction of which insolency this late slaughter was made upon him." In ten years afterwards, when, in the wreck of the Armada, a thousand Spanish soldiers were cast on shore, in the vicinity of this chieftain's territory, his having hospitably entertained the shipwrecked strangers, was suspected as for treasonable designs, and he was compelled, by the continued hostilities of the Lord President, to fly for shelter to James the Sixth of Scotland, who sent him a close prisoner to Elizabeth, when being soon after arraigned in Westminster Hall, he was condemned to die as a traitor, and executed accordingly, in 1592, at Tyburn. An ode to this chieftain, attributed to O'Mulconry, of Ardchoill, in Thomond, in 1566, is printed in Mr. Hardiman's *Minstrelsy*; while another, inscribed to the same chief, is entitled, "The blind bard, Teigue O'Higgin's poem, kindling the mind of Brian na Murtagh O'Ruarc, to make war on Queen Elizabeth." It runs 240 verses, and is preserved in the Irish manuscripts, now unhappily withdrawn from the country, at Stowe. Sir Richard Bingham's impeachment of this unfortunate chief, extends through thirty-two articles; the original is preserved amongst those manuscripts at Bridgewater House, which, having been collected by Sir Thomas Egerton, keeper of the great seal to Queen Elizabeth (afterwards Baron Ellesmere),

day, an optical illusion, whose appearance is referred, by the "*Chronicon Saxonum*," to the year 906.

are styled the Egerton Papers, and now in the possession of his descendant, Lord Francis Egerton, by whose liberal permission, the above articles have been, amongst other interesting documents, published in the Transactions of the Camden Society. Teigue, the son of the above Brian O'Ruarc, submitted to Sir Conyers Clifford, in 1597, promising for himself and all his followers, faithful allegiance to the Crown; yet, immediately after, he appears an active agent in the defeat and death of Sir Conyers, in the mountainous and embarrassed situation in which he was, as before mentioned, attacked. He further did service in the Desmond war, having received aid of money and munition from Tyrone, for his adhesion to the cause. Dying about the year 1606, he left Bryan O'Ruarc, his eldest son, then a minor, whose wardship was, according to the law of the times, committed to the Earl of Clanrickard, by whom he was sent to study at Oxford, and afterwards to the Middle Temple; from the latter place, in the fifteenth year of the reign of King James the First, he was required to appear before the privy council, at Hampton Court, when, the Duke of Buckingham requiring him to submit to the plantation of his estate, he refused so to do, and was thereupon committed to the Tower, within whose walls he was confined for upwards of thirty years, during which interval, the plantation and dismemberment of his estates were effected. By an Act of the tenth year of Charles the First, His Majesty's title to the County Leitrim was fully recognized, and the previous royal patents there were confirmed. In 1642, this Bryan was one of those who attended the assembly at Ballinasloe, and addressed the Marquis of Clanrickard for protection. His heir, Hugh O'Ruarc, was chief of Brefny in 1684; and the last of the line of historic note, was Count Owen O'Ruarc, who distinguished himself in the Imperial and French service, in the last century, and died in London, in 1785.

“908. The battle of Tara, fought by Maolsechnall, the son of Daniel, King of Ireland, against the Danes of Dublin and the followers of Aulaff the stern.”

Moore, writing of this victory, obtained in the first year of the reign of Maolsechnall, more popularly known as Malachy the Great, says: “As important as it was splendid, it threw a lustre of hope and promise around the commencement of his reign. Invaded in the heart of his own dominions by the Northmen of Dublin and of the isles, he not merely repelled the incursion with spirit, but, becoming assailant in his turn, attacked the main body of the enemy’s force, consisting of Danes collected from all parts of Ireland, and continuing the conflict, with but little interruption, for three days and nights, forced them to submit to whatever terms he chose, at the sword’s point, to dictate. Among other conditions, he stipulated for the instant release from captivity of all such natives as were held in bondage by the Danes, and the language of the ‘noble proclamation,’ as it is justly styled, in which he announced to the country this result of his victory, was, in substance, as follows (citing Tigernach, *ad ann.* 980). ‘Let all the Irish who are suffering servitude in the land of the stranger, return now to their several homes, and enjoy themselves in gladness.’”

“911. Battle fought by Maolsechnall, and by the iron-knee’d son of Aulaff, against Daniel the crooked, King of Leinster, and against Imar of Waterford, where fell many,

as well drowned in the sea as slain on land, with that fated one, viz., Patrick, the son of Aulaff.

“ 913. Maolsechnall, the son of Daniel, attacked the isles of Connaught, and slew the commanders.”

This event is shewn by other Annalists to refer to the islands of the lakes, into which the Shannon expands itself between Leinster and Connaught. Tigernach records a dreadful mortality of cattle in two years afterwards.

“ 916. Donogh O'Brien, comorb (i. e. successor) of Ciaran of Clonmacnois, died on the 14th of the Calends of February, at the city of Armagh(a). Leaving this world he followed Christ. He raised a man from death, as it is reported.”

In the following year, King Maolsechnall fought another battle against the Danes, before Dublin, in which he slew a great number of his opponents, and so beleagured their citadel, for the space of twenty nights, that, not having any water except from the sea, they yielded to him all the tribute he required, together with an acknowledgment of his royalty, and an ounce of gold contracted to be paid for each of their fortresses, on every New Year's day, for ever (*Tigernach*).

“ 926. Brian and Maolsechnall led out an army, and carried off hostages from the strangers.”

(a) The excellent “ History of Armagh,” by the late Dr. Stuart, would make any attempt at an illustration of that city here worse than supererogation.

This was one of the expeditions in which Brian, the King of Munster, and afterwards known by the cognomen of Boromhe (by reason of his assessment of the province of Leinster to a tribute of cattle, when he came to the monarchy), displayed such vigilance and bravery, that the chieftains of Ireland formed the design of raising him to that paramount sovereignty, which had been, during so many previous centuries, vested in the Hy-Niall race of princes. This design being apparently favoured, not only by the pre-eminent qualifications of him whom they would thus elect, but also by the great age and inactivity of Malolsechnall, Brian demanded the old monarch's resignation, upon which requisition Malachy could but feebly parley for a year's respite, to afford an opportunity of consulting the wishes of his people, when, on its expiration, as suggested in the next notice,

"928. Brian led an army to Athlone (*a*). There he took hostages of the people of Meath, and those of the people of Connaught."

(*a*) This memorably historic locality has been, from the earliest period, projected in the annals of the country, and, immediately on the English settlement, was established as their paramount military station, and incorporated as a borough town, governed by a sovereign, bailiffs, &c. In the Irish topographical work, the "*Din Seanchus*," is a poem on the origin of Athlone. In the ninth century, a victory was obtained here by the people of Western Meath over the forces of Connaught; and, a few years previous to the above notice, Donogh, monarch of Ireland, before

Thus, after a possession of twenty-three years, this last legitimate monarch of the Hy-Niall line tendered the

alluded to, attempting to invade Connaught in this quarter, was defeated here, with the loss of several persons of distinction. In the year 1000, a road was constructed, through the town to the middle of the river, by King Maolsechnall, as recorded by the Four Masters; and, in 1120, the first bridge was thrown over the Shannon here; it being, however, destroyed in 1125, by the people of Meath, a new one of wicker work was framed by Turlough O'Connor, who also erected a fortified citadel here. Both these structures were, in 1133, burned by Murrrough O'Melaghlin and Tiernan O'Ruarc, they declaring that the sole object of their construction was to facilitate the invasion of Meath by O'Connor. Soon afterwards an abbey, dedicated to Saint Peter, was founded here. In 1159, Roderic O'Connor, King of Ireland, attempting to re-construct the bridge, a hard-fought battle ensued between him and O'Melaghlin. The bridge was, however, about this time, rebuilt. In 1168, the nobles of Ulster and the Bishop of Derry made their submissions and peace-offerings to Roderic at Athlone. In 1216, King John granted to St. Peter's Abbey four carucates of land, in exchange for the site on which he erected his castle here; and, in 1219, King Henry granted a patent for holding a fair here. About the year 1222, a monastery was founded in the English town, for Conventual Franciscans, by Cathal O'Connor, Prince of Connaught, who not living to finish the building, its completion is generally attributed to Sir Henry Dillon, of Drumrany, who was subsequently buried there. The honour of this foundation is, however, disputed by the Burkes, Fallons, and Digbys, respectively. In 1236, a hosting was assembled here, on the requisition of Richard, the son of William de Burgo; they passed over the bridge of Athlone to Roscommon, which they burned; thence to Elphin, where they set fire to the great church, and, removing thence to the Abbey of Boyle, there perpetrated the atrocities related in the first volume of this work. In 1241, the great church of the Franciscans was consecrated by

resignation of his Crown, offered his homage to the people's selection, and acknowledged the chieftain

Albert, Archbishop of Armagh. In 1253, when Prince Edward, the son of Henry the Third, was, on his marriage, invested by his royal father with the sovereignty of all that part of Ireland then under English dominion, the grant contained special reservation of the cities and counties of Dublin and Limerick, the town of Athlone, and all the lands of the Church; while it is worthy of notice, that the patent contained a further wise proviso, that the territories so granted should never be separated from the Crown, but remain for ever annexed to the kingdom of England. In 1279, the King granted to St. Peter's Abbey the weirs and fisheries of Athlone, and the toll of the bridge. In 1288, Richard de Burgo, Earl of Ulster, claiming title to the lordship of Meath, made war upon Sir Theobald de Verdon, and besieged him in the castle here. In 1300, the custody of the castle was committed to William de Hatche. Its subsequent governors, during that century, were, Richard de Burgo, in 1309; Roger de Mortimer, in 1319; Richard de Tuite, in 1326; William de Burgo, in 1332; John de Elerker, in 1335; John de Sutton, in 1336; Henry "Dylloun," in 1343; William, the son of Andrew de Bermingham, in 1346; Thomas Talbot, in 1348; John Fitz-Richard, in 1360; Thomas O'Casey, in 1381; John O'Casey, in 1388; Richard, son of William D'Alton, in 1389; and Gerald Dillon, in 1393. In 1315, Richard de Burgo, marching, with his adherents, to resist the invasion of Edward Bruce and his Scots, was joined here by Felim O'Connor, Prince of Connaught, and his forces. In 1376, the King ordered the Earl of Kildare to compel persons having lands about Athlone, and certain other places, to bestir themselves for the safe maintenance of same, by residing thereon. In 1495, it was enacted, that none but an Englishman should be intrusted with the constableness of the castle, a provision which remained in force until repealed in 1634. In 1566, the bridge underwent considerable repairs, by the directions of that active Viceroy, Sir Henry Sydney, or rather it was re-con-

of another, the O'Brien dynasty, henceforth supreme sovereign of all Ireland. Such a revolution, in de-

structed with strong arches, walls, and battlements ; the town was also strengthened with gates and other fortifications. These improvements were by the direction of his royal mistress, who then entertained thoughts of fixing the residence of the Lords Deputy of Ireland in Athlone. In 1576, the Earl of Clanrickard made his submission here to the said Lord Deputy ; and, on the delivery of certain of his castles, obtained pardon for his then recent resistance to the government. In 1594, Sir William Russel, Lord Justice, convened a meeting of the nobles of Meath, Leinster, Munster, and Connaught, at Athlone ; and in 1601, its English garrison was ordered to join the Earl of Clanrickard, at Boyle Abbey, with the object of opposing Red Hugh O'Donnel. In 1614, when King James issued a commission to induce a surrender of the estates of the Connaught gentry, he directed that they should be re-conveyed by new patents to them and their heirs, to be holden of the crown by knights' service, as of the castle of Athlone. In 1634, Sir Matthew de Renzi, said to have been a descendant of the illustrious Scanderbeg, who fought fifty-two battles with the Sultan, died in this town ; he was a great traveller and linguist, and, in particular, compiled a grammar, dictionary, and chronicle, in the Irish tongue ; there is a monument in the church to his memory. In 1641, the Lord President of Connaught was forced to take refuge in the castle of Athlone ; and, subsequently, its garrison was so harassed by the Irish, that they resolved to abandon the town ; whereupon, the wife of the governor of the castle, daughter of the Earl of Cork, made her way to Dublin, on the faith of a safe convoy, and there so pathetically stated the sufferings of the military, that a reinforcement was immediately ordered for their relief ; the main body of the Irish advanced to oppose them in the pass of Rathconnel, when the engagement took place mentioned in a former note (*ante*, p. 128). In 1651, Sir Charles Coote invested and took Athlone ; and, in 1653, the memorable Court of Claims, consequent upon the forfeitures of



fiance of old and long cherished rights, yet without bloodshed or contention, is, perhaps, as singular and mysterious a transfer of government, as the history of any country can exhibit: in the corrected chronology it occurred in the year 1001. In the line of kings, that had succeeded in Ireland from Niall, it will be seen, that the introduction of Christianity had a powerful influence in controlling at least the ferocity of the royal elections, in which, theretofore,

1641, was held in this town. In 1676, all the lands, tenements, houses, gardens, fisheries, customs, royalties, &c., which had been annexed to the presidency of Connaught, were declared vested in the Crown. A state letter of 1685, preserved in the correspondence of the Earl of Clarendon, contains the following curious passage relative to Athlone:—"There is a strong report among us here, that Colonel Grace is governor of Athlone, as Whiggish a little town as any in Ireland; they burned the Pope on the 23rd of October last, in memory of the Irish Rebellion, which was fatal to the Irish, but beneficial enough to the English Whigs, who got large possessions by it. Indeed, they are obliged to celebrate that day with joy and thanksgiving. However, I could wish my old comrade were governor of it, that I might have the comfort of his neighbourhood; but I am of St. Thomas's belief as to that and many other respects. They say my Lord Tyrconnel goes soon for England; we want him there, and we shall want him here. . . . Adieu! God bless his sacred Majesty with long life, health, and happiness, and a numerous issue male." In November, 1687, King James the Second granted a charter to this town; and, in 1690, occurred its memorable siege by King William's forces. The general sent a drum to summon the town, but the Colonel (Grace) fired a pistol at him, adding, that these were the only terms he was for.

each successive king rose to the throne on the massacre of his predecessor. Of the forty-two Christian kings who were acknowledged, in this interval, supreme sovereigns of Ireland, only eight were slain by their successors, although it must be admitted, the majority of the remainder perished by violent deaths, and in party feuds and broils, somewhat pompously called "battles," and but few died "naturally, and in a peace that many of their predecessors were strangers to," as noted by the candid native historians. The description of battles alluded to continued to harass the country, increased by others of more justifiable warfare, fought in the resistance of Danish oppression. With details of these hostilities the scope of the Annals of this period comprehends numerous notices, in the earlier centuries, of the founding and endowment, and, in the later, of the burning and spoliation of religious houses, the frequency of pilgrimages, the collecting and enshrining of relics, the births and deaths of prelates, abbots, and holy men; and the imposing and levying of ecclesiastical assessments and dues.

"930. The people of Ulster and those of Tyrone, were engaged in the battle of the wood of Tulka(a), where fell two kings, Aodh (Hugh) O'Neill, and Eochaid, the son of Airdgal, King of Ulidia, and many others."

This Hugh O'Neill was the grandson of that gallant

(a) It can only be said of this locality, that it was situated in Ulster.

Murcertagh, before mentioned, as having made "the circuit of Ireland," and was himself the *Righdamna* or successor apparent to Malachy, therefore the person, next to that prince, most aggrieved by his deposition. In the year after this battle, King O'Brien led an army through Meath, into Ulster, to levy hostages, on which occasion he remained a week in Armagh, on the altar of whose church he placed an offering of twenty ounces of gold; he afterwards made a similar political circuit of Connaught.

"936. Cathal, the son of Conchobar, king of Connaught, died on a pilgrimage."

In the second ensuing year, the Four Masters relate, that Armagh was afflicted with a severe visitation of plague, so that a vast number of the religious, and of the young students there, perished.

"939. The wars of Brian, the son of Kennedy, the son of Lorcan, supreme king of Ireland, begin here. To this year, from the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ, was a lapse of 1014 years, and from the beginning of the world 6000 years, according to Dionysius; 5218, according to the Jews."

The suggestion of the errors, which led to such deviations in chronology, have been noted *ad ann.* 748. This Annal, purporting, by the criterion of computation adopted by Dr. O'Connor, to bear date as in 939, yet thus in the body correctly adjusted, confirms the observations before made. Accordingly the ensuing notice is of 1014, while there is no de-

fect in the order of the events detailed, nor any substantial hiatus. Henceforth the chronology is conformable to the common era, while the notices are almost exclusively in Irish, unmixed with Latin, in translating which, the interpretation of Dr. O'Connor, in the "*Rerum Hibernicarum Scriptores*," has been adopted, in respect to his learning and authority, and in preference to some unimportant changes which have been suggested, but frequently so varied each from the other, in reference to the same passages, as to make correction less trustworthy.

The wars of Brian, spoken of in the text, allude to the numerous victories detailed by the other Annalists, as having been won by him, chiefly over the common enemy, until at last, in

"1014. An army, with Brian, the son of Kennedy, the son of Lorcan, supreme king of Ireland, and with many thousands of all the provinces, especially of Munster; and with Maolsechnal, the son of Donald, king of Tara, and the noblest chiefs of Ireland [marched] to Dublin, against the green(a) foreigners, and their warriors, and against Maolmordha, son of Murrough, King of Leinster; for he it was who collected and incited the kings, and associated in league with himself, them, their islands, and their sons, with the natives of Lochlin of the north-west, and their citadels, and their best cities, and the Saxons and Britons, to [the invasion] of Ireland. Ten hundred, clad in coats of mail, came with them to Dublin."

(a) This epithet was probably given to the men in mail, mentioned afterwards in this notice, and whose armour might have been of a sea-green shade.

The kings of the islands, here alluded to, are fully detailed in the Annals of Inisfallen, as the rulers of the Hebrides, Shetlands, Lewis, and the Isle of Man, as are other allies from Cantyre, Wales, and Cornwall, "with all their kings," while the natives of Lochlin, of the north-west, are explained to be, "the natives of the region of snows," i. e. of Norway, Sweden, Jutland, and Gothland, all of whom were induced, by the apostacy of Maolmordha and the representations of the Danes of Ireland, to crowd to the Irish shore, actually bringing with them their wives and children, writes Ademar, the French contemporary historian, and hoping to participate, as he adds, in the conquest and enjoyment of a land, which "had twelve cities, with most amply endowed bishoprics; one king, and its own language, but a Latin alphabet."

"Against them a battle was fought, cruel, surprizing, implacable, nothing like which was seen before. The contest was very long maintained, considering the vigour of the attacks. After the combatants were very frequently engaged, the victory was won over the strangers and the Leinster people, by the force of war, superior exertion, and indomitable bravery."

This, the memorable engagement of Clontarf, took place, according to the Four Masters, on Good Friday of the above year. An hiatus, unfortunately, occurs here in the manuscript of Tigernach, but the Annals of Inisfallen are, as might be expected, most particular in detailing the order and progress

of the fight. Brian arrayed his forces in three divisions; the first he assigned to contend with the main body of the Danes and their foreign auxiliaries, the men in mail; he gave the command thereof to his son Murrough, who had with him four of his brothers, and a son of his own, Turlough, with a select body of the brave Dalcassians, and a body of men from Conmac-ne-mara, a district of western Connaught, under Carnan, their chief; and to this body Maolsechlan had orders to join his followers. The second division was opposed to the people of Leinster, under their perfidious king, Maolmordha, with such of the Danes, and of his own subordinate chiefs, as had collected round his standard. (The disgraceful desertion of this prince, from the cause of his country to the ranks of its bitterest enemies, is attributed to his having, fifteen years previously, obtained the crown of Leinster, on usurpation, by the force of Danish auxiliaries, in acknowledgment of which service he recklessly co-operated with them on this day, and consummated his heartless adhesion with his life). Over this division of his army Brian placed Cian, "the tallest and fairest of the Irish," and Donald, two princes of South Munster, with the chiefs and forces of that country. The third division, opposed to the northmen of Scotland and the Islands, consisted chiefly of the people of Connaught, commanded by Teigue, son of Conor, king of that province, under whom were Maolruan O'Hedian, chief of Aidhne (Kiltartan); O'Kelly, chief of Hy-

Maine (in the County Galway); O'Flaherty, chief of Muintir Murchadha; Conor O'Maolruan, king of Moylurg (Barony of Boyle); Murcertach O'Cadhlá, chief of Conmac-ne-mara (Connemara), &c. The forces being thus disposed, Brian, say the Annals of Inisfallen, went, with his son Murrough, amongst the soldiers, and addressed them thus: "Be not dismayed because my son Donogh, with the best of the forces of Munster, is absent from you, for he is laying waste Leinster and the Danish territories; you have, for many years, groaned under the tyranny of these sea-faring pirates, the murderers of your kings and chieftains, plunderers of your strongholds, profane destroyers of the churches and monasteries of God, who have trampled upon, and committed to the flames, the relics of his saints; may the Trinity, through its great mercy, give you strength and courage this day, to put an end for ever to their tyranny in Ireland, and to avenge upon them their many perfidies, and their profanation of the sacred edifices; and that upon this day on which Christ suffered death for you." And then, continue the Annals, he shewed them a bloody cross in his left hand, and with his sword in his right, declared he was willing to die for their protection; whereupon, the old monarch, and his son Murrough, with the Dalcassian army, rushed upon the men in mail, at which critical moment, to the hazard of the day, Maolsechnal, King of Meath, on an understanding with the above King of Leinster, retired, with his forces, a field's

space from that of action, and remained thenceforth an inactive spectator during the whole time of the battle. His defection certainly rendered this division of Brian's army very unequal in numbers to that of the enemy's, which they were directed to engage, but the bravery of Murrough and his Dalcassians sustained the field. The situation of the ground admitted of no ambuscades, every thing depended on open force and courage, and as this, and the other divisions of both armies, closed, they fought man to man and breast to breast, until at last the victory was obtained over the Danes and people of Leinster, and the victors pursued and harassed their discomfited foe, some from the field into Dublin, and others to their ships, until all the men in mail were slain, and a great many of their comrades. The surviving foreigners took an eternal farewell of the country, and the Irish Danes fortified themselves in Dublin. In the Chronicle of Ademar, monk of St. Eparchius of Angoulesme, it is said that the battle lasted three days, but this does not agree with the native writers.

“There were killed therein Maolmordha, the son of Murrough, son of Finn, King of Leinster, and the son of Brogarban, son of Conchobar, King of Hyfalgia(a), and many

(a) Offaley, commonly considered commensurate with the present King's County, in truth comprised but a portion of that modern district, with, however, parts of the Counties of Kilkenny and Kildare. From this Conchobar, here mentioned, the O'Conors of Offaley, long a powerful sept, took their name and lineage. When Henry the Second granted the government



other nobles, with a great multitude of the Leinster people with them; and then were slain there of the foreigners, Dubgall, the son of Aulaff, and Gildas Ciaran, the son of the iron-knee'd; and Sitric, the son of Lodar, Jarl (Earl) of the Orkney islands; and Broder, leader of the men of the sea; and the whole band of the thousand men in mail, and thirty hundred in the army of the strangers, fell there. On the other side fell Murrough, the son of Brian, the heir apparent to the supreme sovereignty of Ireland."

This gallant chief, to whose exploits that day the eulogies of all the historians of the battle are chiefly

of Dublin to Hugh de Lacy, he appointed, that, amongst the lands assigned in future for its service, should be those of Offaley, with its appurtenances, but, like others of Henry's grants, it was more of a license to reduce them by the sword. The O'Conors, however, long maintained their inheritance. In vain did Edward the Third invest Robert de Braynock with the Serjeantcy of Offaley; in vain, to any great extent, did the same monarch direct the assessment of the district to a subsidy "for the reduction of the Irish enemy:" Sir Edward Bellingham, in the reign of Edward the Sixth, was the first viceroy who extended the boundaries of the Pale into this country, and that now called the Queen's County, then Leix, by, as Sir John Davis expresses himself, "beating and breaking the Moores and O'Connors, and building the forts of Leix and Offaley," while he adds: "Thomas, Earl of Sussex, did put the last hand to this work, and, rooting out these two rebellious septs, planted English colonies in their room, which, in all the tumultuous times since, have kept their habitations, their loyalty, and their religion." It may be here added, that, in 1599, the Earl of Essex, when Viceroy of Ireland, made a military excursion into this country, where he was met by Sir Conyers Clifford, Governor of Connaught, immediately previous to that excursion into the Curlews, which, as has been related in the first volume of this work, terminated his career.

directed, is recorded to have performed prodigies of strength and courage throughout the prolonged and deadly struggle. Amongst the chiefs slain by him in personal conflict, is numbered the Sitric, son of Lodar, mentioned in the text, whom, it is stated, he despatched with a single blow of his battle-axe, severing the body in ~~two~~ through his armour. Here also with Murrough,

“ His son, Turlough, fell, the next lineal expectant of the sovereignty of Ireland,”

who, although then but fifteen years of age, performed acts of scarcely less signal and surprising achievement.

“ There also fell thirty petty princes of the people of Connaught and of Munster, viz.: Mothla, son of Donald, son of Faellan, King of the Desii (the present County of Waterford), and Eochaid, son of Dunadag, and Niall O’Conn, three of the body guard of Brian; and Thady, son of Murrough, King of Hy-Maine(a); and Maolruana O’Achdin, King of

(a) O’Kelly was the King of Hy-Maine, a tract extending over the Counties of Galway and Roscommon, of the greater portion of which his sept was dispossessed, early after the English invasion, by the Berminghams and Burkes; their royal seat at Dunmore had been, however, previously destroyed by Conor O’Brien, in 1133. This family claims descent from Maine Mor (who, in the fourth century, acquired the territory of Hy-Maine), and through his descendant Ceallaig, from whom they derive their name O’Kealeach, i. e. the descendants of Ceallach, and who is recorded as having been a considerable benefactor to Clonmacnois, in the ninth century. In 960, Murrough O’Kelly, of Hy-Maine, possessed himself of the great island in Lough-Ree, and carried off many prisoners thence. In 975, Thady O’Kelly, King of Hy-Maine, obtained a victory over the men of Munster; but in 1014,

Aidhne; and Cumusc Bennach, the son of Dubcon, the King

was slain, as above noticed. His namesake and descendant, Thady O'Kelly, King of Hy-Maine, in 1065, in company with O'Ruare of Brefny, despoiled the Abbey of Clonfert, but was, on the following day, opposed by Hugh O'Conor, King of Connaught, who defeated their army, dispersed their fleet, and slew O'Kelly. In 1139, Hugh O'Kelly succeeded to the See of Clogher. In 1167, Conor O'Kelly founded a church at Clonmacnois; soon after which, the Annals of Inisfallen record his death, as King of Hy-Maine. The Annals of Boyle mention (*post*) the death of Murrrough O'Kelly, King of Hy-Maine, in 1186. In 1220, Conor O'Kelly compiled the pedigree of his family, which is yet extant in the manuscripts of Stowe. In 1244, O'Kelly was one of the Irish chieftains to whom Henry the Third directed his letter, commanding his military service with the King's army in Scotland, as was Gilbert O'Kelly, of Hy-Maine, on the occasion of a similar invasion of Scotland, in 1314, by Edward the Second. In 1347, Thomas O'Kelly was Bishop of Clonfert; and in 1394, Maurice O'Kelly was translated from that see to the Archbishopric of Tuam. In the commencement of the fifteenth century, died Melaghlin O'Kelly, and his wife, Finola O'Conor, in whose commemoration a monument still exists in the choir of the Abbey of Knockmoy. In 1414, William O'Kelly founded the friary of Kilconnell; and in the same year the head of this sept was defeated by O'Brien, at the battle of Athleague. In 1430, John O'Kelly, an Irishman, had letters of protection under the great seal, for himself and four attendants, with their horses and horse harness, coming from Ireland to court, and during their sojourn there, and their return. In 1499, the Earl of Kildare, Lord Deputy, at the instance of the O'Conors, invaded Hy-Maine, and taking the castle of the O'Kelly, at Athleague, banished the sept beyond the Suck; soon afterwards, however, O'Kelly, having obtained aid from Burke, of Clanrickard, in the re-action of hostility, recovered Athleague, with the entire lordship of Hy-Maine. In 1438, Thomas O'Kelly was translated from the see of Clonfert to the archdiocese of Tuam. In the reign of Elizabeth,

of Fermoy(a); and the son of Betagh, the son of Murdoch,

the O'Kellys of Galway, are particularized by Spenser, as of the septs, whom it was most essential to restrain within their district, in contemplation of which object, an especial agreement was entered into, hereafter mentioned in the notice of the O'Fallon family. In 1600, the O'Kelly (Colla) bore arms under the Earl of Clanrickard, and fought at the battle of Kinsale; he had, in 1612, a royal grant of considerable possessions, in the Counties of Galway and Roscommon. In 1643, O'Kelly of Aghrim, and two of the house of Grallagh, were of those who marched to the attack of Galway. In 1665, Colonel John Kelly, of Scrine, in the Barony of Athlone, was, under the Act of Explanation, restored to all his estates. In the subsequent war, between James the Second and William the Third, the O'Kelly espoused the cause of the former, and some of the family followed his fallen fortunes into France. Indeed, the confiscations and persecutions, that ensued upon their fidelity to the Stuarts, in both the great civil wars of that century, drove many of this race to the nations of the continent, in whose Annals their piety and valour are alike conspicuous. About the year 1679, Dominick O'Kelly, of Ballinlass, was prior of Lovain. In 1688, Colonel John Kelly, of Aghrim, sat in King James's parliament, as a member for the County Roscommon. In 1699, William O'Kelly obtained from the Emperor Leopold, the chairs of philosophy, history, and heraldry, at his imperial court; he also received many other honours, and wrote several works. In 1747, Lieutenant William Kelly, in Lally's regiment, was one of those wounded at the battle of Lauffield village. In 1768, died Baron O'Kelly, as did, in 1776, Count O'Kelly. This Count was the grandson of the member for Roscommon, in King James's parliament, and was grandfather of the Count O'Kelly, at present residing in the south of France. In 1794, Dean O'Kelly died at Rome. It can be here only added, that, in the ecclesiastical history of Ireland, this name is of especial note and honour, no less than twenty of its prelates, before the commencement of the sixteenth century, having been O'Kellys.

(a) Fermoy, called more anciently Magh Fene, was a princi-

the crooked, King of the rushy district of Ciarrigia (Kerry); and Donald, son of Diarmid, King of Corcobaskin (in the County Clare); and Scanlan, son of Cathald, King of Eogannacht Lough Lene (Killarney); and Donald, son of Emmius, son of Cannaich, a great governor in Albania; and many other nobles. And there was the sovereign Brian, the son of Kennedy, in the last line of the field; and Conang, the son of Dundcuan, the son of his brother, taking their rest; when suddenly, and before they were aware, came upon them, some of the sea rovers, to the spot where Brian and Conang were, and where, as soon as the chief of the strangers beheld the sovereign, he raised his hand, and struck him with a sword, and again he raised his hand over him, and struck Conang, the son of Dundcuan, and he slew both; and he

pality of the O'Keeffes, before the English invasion, shortly after which it was granted to one of the Fleming family, who founded a Cistercian Abbey here, styled "*De Castro Dei*," and filled it with monks of that order, from Furnes, in Lancashire. In 1226, the prior of this house was elected Bishop of Cloyne. In 1303, it, together with the Abbey of Odorney, was governed by the fifth son of Maurice, Lord Kerry; and in 1480, its Abbot, Nicholas O'Henesy, was made Bishop of Waterford. The fee of the manor passed from the Flemings by marriage, to the Roches, who thence took the title of Viscount. On the dissolution, the possessions of the Abbey were granted to Sir Richard Greneville. In 1690, General Carrol, in the service of James the Second, menaced the town, but ineffectively. As a town, however, Fermoy was of little importance, but as it opened a pass over the Blackwater; until in 1791, two-thirds of the manor having been purchased by Mr. Anderson, he laid the foundation of its future prosperity, and was the influential cause of the establishment of a military station there, of the formation of new and useful lines of road, and of the consequent introduction of the mail-coach system into this country. The town is finely situated, and the environs abound with charming scenery.

was himself slain in the same place, and his foreigners with him."

Thus fell this venerable monarch, the most signal ornament of the O'Brien dynasty, the law-giver and hero, the Alfred and Epaminondas of his country. "Wilson has included this illustrious individual amongst the martyrs, as has Fitz-Simons in the catalogue of Irish saints, each following Marianus Scotus, and undoubtedly, if the founding and rebuilding of churches, the sheltering and maintaining persecuted ecclesiastics, the directing of every effort of men, money, genius, and power, to restore Christianity; the ardent prosecution of a war, perhaps more holy than a crusade, from battle to battle, to arrest the sacrilegious arms of the infidel invaders of his country, gave a claim to canonization, he was eminently entitled to it. . . . This battle was the subject of a fine poem, preserved in the *Orcades* of *Thermodus Torfæus*, and also in *Bartholinus*, of which *Gray* has given a paraphrase, but certainly far inferior to the original, in his ode entitled 'the Fatal Sisters.' It also, as might well be expected, supplied the theme of various native effusions. That man, it has been observed, is little to be envied whose patriotism would not gain force upon the plains of Marathon, or whose piety would not grow warmer among the ruins of Iona, and surely he were not worthy of the name of Irishman, who would not be affected by the moral sublimity of the scene, where, by one magnificent effort of national retribu-

tion, the oppressors of his country were for ever crushed; and, although some few of their race were allowed to remain as merchants, in the towns which they had 'buildd with blood and established by iniquity,' and where, on the English invasion, the rights of their descendants continued to be saved by special reservation, down to the fourteenth century, yet never again were they a dominant people in this country"(a). Those, who were so permitted to remain, were traders or mechanics, and were, after the English invasion and settlement, restricted to particular quarters of the towns, which they were allowed to inhabit; many also, who had intermarried with the natives, were suffered to remain scattered over the island, and became the stocks of several of its families, as the Cruises, Coppingers, Everards, Ferrises, Harolds, Plunkets, Revels, &c. In 1020, however, it is to be remarked, that Tigernach and the Four Masters record the burning of Armagh, with all its churches and belfries, wherein a great quantity of gold and silver, and holy writings, perished, but neither of these chroniclers attribute the conflagration to renewed Danish hostility, and, however succeeding forays may be spoken of as inflicted by the Danes, they were more properly the desultory expeditions of external pirates. It may be here

(a) "History of the County of Dublin," pp. 71 and 81, where the historic associations of this memorable spot (Clontarf) are fully detailed.

added, that this was the period when, in the comparative repose of the country, the erection of stone churches, as with the assurance of popular veneration for their future durability, became of more general adoption; accordingly, such structure will be found superseding the humbler efforts of the long-persecuted Christian population of Ireland, as at Kilcullen, Clonfert, Kildare, Emly, Duleek, Armagh, Clonmacnois, Ardbraccan, Lusk, &c., but their rareness, to any great superficial extent, is evinced in the amazement, testified by the people of Down, when they beheld the great scope of the foundations of the stone church, which St. Malachy prepared to erect at Bangor, as recorded in his life by St. Bernard.

“ There fell in that battle of Clontarf, the son of Conang, the son of Dundcuan, and the son of Murrough, the son of Brian; and the son of Turlough, the son of Murrough, the son of Brian; and the wardens of the Staff of Jesus<sup>(a)</sup> im-

(a) The exemption of this country from venomous creatures is popularly attributed to the benediction of St. Patrick, given by this staff, which, when the apostle constituted Armagh the metropolis of all Ireland, he deposited there, and its monks are the wardens alluded to in the text. Such, indeed, was the reverence in which it was regarded, that St. Bernard insinuates its possession, with that of St. Patrick's text of the Gospels, conferred the diocesan rights. Cambrensis intimates that the staff had been, previous to his time, removed to Dublin, where, Ralph Higden, in his “*Polychronicon*,” mentions, it was preserved, with great honour, in 1360; in 1539, however, it was publicly burned, in High-street, Dublin, by order of Archbishop Browne.



mediately took off their bodies with them to Armagh, and buried them honourably, nobly, and suitably to their rank. The next year to this was 1015.

“ 1016. Mac Liag, the chief poet of Ireland, died.”

He was the secretary and biographer of Brian, and his work, entitled the “*Leabhar Oiris*,” is the record of that warrior’s exploits. Many extracts from it, in reference to this battle of Clontarf, are given in the second volume of Hardiman’s “*Irish Minstrelsy*,” as is a pathetic little poem, styled the “*Lament*,” for Brian, and the desolateness of his theretofore joyous palace, at Cencora. As appears by the above notice, he did not long survive his royal master, on whose death Maolsechnall was recalled to the government of Ireland, which he held for eight years; after having, before he resigned to Brian, enjoyed the supreme sovereignty during twenty-three. The occasion of his death is thus related in the *Annals of Boyle*:

“ 1022. Maolsechnall, the son of Daniel, the son of Donogh, was slain by the people of Teffia(a).”

And upon this, his final overthrow, the anciently established system of succession to the throne of the whole kingdom, which had endured since the battle of Ocha, for upwards of six centuries, was overturned,

(a) The district of Teffia comprehended more than half of the present County of Westmeath, and nearly all of the County Longford. After the English invasion the chief estates therein were allotted to the Tuites, Petits, Delamers, and D’Altons, as the best qualified to maintain, by their valour, possessions so precariously situated on the marches.

and, as there remained no paramount power to control the provincial kings, or minor chieftains, jealousies were created, ambitions nurtured, and the energies of the nation wasted in petty broils. The chieftains no longer advanced to sovereignty by any acknowledged hereditary right, or with the auspices of religious forms, but only through military pre-eminence, asserted in all that elective licentiousness, the prevalence of which the Black Book of Christ Church so sadly attests and condemns. The Annals of the Four Masters give another account of the death of Maolsechnall, stating, as on the authority of the Book of Clonmacnois, that it occurred in an island of Lough Annin, in the 73rd year of his age, on Easter Sunday, when his obsequies were celebrated with all religious honours. Tigernach also states his death as having occurred in this island.

“1029. Thady, the son of Cathal, the son of Conor, was slain by Maolsechnall O'Maolruana, King of the Crimthans.”

Tigernach states this Thady to have been King of Connaught, and the Four Masters more fully describe his opponent as a petty prince of Meath, whose subjects were called the Crimthans. This Maolsechnall was, in 1036, according to the latter authority, slain by Hugh O'Connor, in revenge for the death of his kinsman. The year 1044, as its annals are given by the Four Masters, presents an epitome of the sad disunion and discord that then too widely prevailed

in Ireland. "Cumuscagh O'Hallehan, chief of Ead-nach, was slain by the O'Caracans; Neill O'Callaghan, chief of the Hy-Bresal, and his brother, were deprived of sight by the sons of Madadan, by force and in revenge; Donald O'Quirk, prince of Muskerry, was slain by Flathen and by Ossen.—An army was led by Niall, son of Melaghlin, prince of Alichia, against the people of Meath and Cualgne, until he carried off 1200 cows and many captives, in revenge for a bell, which they had sacrilegiously abstracted; another army was afterwards led by Murtough O'Neill against the Mugdornians, until he carried off spoil and captives, in revenge for the said bell. The chief of Hy-Fiachra Ardsrath, was slain by the son of Harold; and the shrine of Patrick (at Armagh), was, in the same year, burned by him.—Clonmacnois was devastated by the people of Munster, in the absence of Donogh, son of Brian (then King of Ireland); Donogh afterwards gave an offering of forty cows to the clergy of that house, as in recompense to God and St. Ciaran, for ever; but all the Munster people, who had perpetrated the hostile sacrilege, were excommunicated. Clonmacnois was again devastated by the people of Conmacne; God and Ciaran, however, took signal vengeance upon them, by inflicting a mortal pestilence among their cattle and themselves, until their people paid tribute to the house, and delivered twelve of their best beloved youths as hostages.—Slaughter of the people of Teffia and Conmacne, by those of Meath, in

which many were slain.—Slaughter of the clan Murogh, by the people of Brefny, i. e. by Hugh O'Ruarc, in which fell the priest, O'Conor, and many others; Murrugh, the son of Bran, chief of the O'Faelons, was slain by the son of Mocolmoge, tanist of the O'Donoghues."

" 1046. From the Incarnation of our Lord, 1046 years. From the beginning of the world 6244.

" 1047. A remarkable fall of snow in this year, from the Epiphany to the Calends of May."

Florence of Worcester refers this event to the same period. In 1050, the Four Masters relate a melancholy and singular continuance of rain over Ireland, which swept away the food, the fruit, and even the fish, from the people, so that desolation was visible on every side, not excepting churches or fortresses, until the ecclesiastics of Munster collected together, with laymen and kings, and with Donogh, the son of Brian, King of Ireland, and with the head of the religious of Ireland, at Killaloe, where they directed alms-giving, and a cessation of litigation, and God gave peace and prosperity to those who obeyed their injunctions. About the year 1051, Harold, the son of the celebrated Earl Godwin, being banished from his own country, found a retreat in Ireland, whence, in the subsequent year, he made several inroads into Somersetshire and Devonshire, until his father and himself were restored to their honours in their own country. In 1053 King Donough, and Conor O'Melaghlin, led a force into Fingal, where

they made many captives, whom they confined in the stone church of Lusk.

“ 1060. Thady, the son of Conchobar, was treacherously slain by the people of Western Connaught.

“ 1062. This is the first year of the eleventh great Paschal cycle, from the beginning of the world, but the beginning of the third from the Incarnation of our Lord.”

The cycle here intended is the Dionysian, of 532 years, but the calculation founded on it is erroneous; it should accord with 1065.

“ 1063. Donogh, the son of Brian, went to Rome upon his pilgrimage.”

He had succeeded to the government of Ireland on the death of Maolsechnall, in 1022, thus becoming, in the series of its Christian Kings, the 45th. Early on his accession, he made the usual political visitations of any suspected portions of the country, and exacted hostages. His pilgrimage, above spoken of, was, according to the most accredited authorities, of a political nature; having been himself disturbed in the possession of the monarchy, if not actually banished, by the intrigues of his nephew Turlough, he threw himself at the feet of the Pope, and affected, by the delivery of his father's crown, to make a constitutional transfer of Ireland to his Holiness, a ground upon which, with others, it is asserted, Adrian relied for the title which, by his alleged bull, he transferred to Henry the Second. The aid, how-

ever, which Donogh sought was denied, whereupon he took the habit of a religious in St. Stephen's Abbey in Rome, where he passed the remainder of his days in exercises of devotion, and was buried in the 88th year of his age. On his departure his nephew and rival, Turlough, at once assumed the kingdom, its 46th Christian monarch.

A tradition is preserved, that King Donogh, on this occasion of his alleged submission to the Pope, proffered, with the crown of his father, Brian Borimhe, his harp also, as an offering of his homage. It has been already suggested, *ante*, p. 107, that the Welch derived their knowledge of, and taste for that instrument from Ireland, a fact which Warton, in his "Dissertation on English Poetry," supports; and Powell, in his "History of Wales," asserts, that when, about this year, the king of that country wished to reform and regulate the bards and music of his nation, "he brought over from Ireland divers cunning musicians, who devised, in a manner, all the instrumental music that is now there used, as appeareth as well by the books written of the same, as also by the names of the tunes and measures used among them to this day." The Danes had likewise borrowed this species of music from the victims of their long-continued persecution; while, immediately after the English invasion, Giraldus will be found stating, that the bishops, abbots, and holy men of Ireland, carried harps about with them, and delighted in sacred melodies; and he speaks of the general

musical talent of the people with such raptures, and, at the same time, such criticism and taste (*"Top. Hib."* Dist. iii. c. 11), as would but be prejudiced by translation. In the chapter of his work here referred to, he names the musical instruments used in Ireland, as "cythara," and "tympanum," which, probably, alluded to two species of the harp, for Brompton says the Irish had two kinds of harps, the one bold and rapid, the other soft and soothing; the latter and smaller being used by females and ecclesiastics, as an accompaniment to their songs and hymns, while the former was sounded only in the public assemblies of the people.

" 1064. Battle of the marshy Aidne, where was slain Hugh O'Connor, King of Connaught. Hugh O'Concannen, King of the Diarmits, there also fell."

Aidne, as before mentioned, was the ancient name of the present Barony of Kiltartan. This battle was caused by the people of Brefny, under the command of Hugh O'Ruarc, having invaded Connaught, and devastated the entire province. The Annalists of Inisfallen style the King of Connaught "Hugh of the iron spear, son of Thady of the white horse," and they denote Hugh, King of the Diarmits, to be O'Connor, of Kerry.

" 1069. Diarmit, the son of Maolnamb, King of the Britons and of the Hebrides, and of Dublin, and of the half of southern Ireland, called Leath Mogha, was slain and subdued by Conor O'Maolsechnal, in the battle of Odva."

This Diarmid was the son-in-law of Donogh, the former King of Ireland, and had, to the time of his death, maintained an independent sway over the districts alluded to in the text. His opponent, Conor, was King of Meath; and the battle, the scene of which has been alluded to in a former note (*ante*, p. 12), was attended with great loss of life on the part of the people of Leinster and the Danes. In nine years afterwards, the Annals of Inisfallen record a remarkable frost and fall of snow, which was followed by a mortality of cattle, and an awful pestilence, in which perished many petty princes (whose names are enumerated), besides the Bishops of Armagh, Dublin, and Glendalough, four eminent Abbots, and various others of the clergy and laity. In the following year, Turlough O'Brien led an army into Connaught, and deposed Roderic O'Conor from its government.

“ 1080. Donald the son of Thady O'Conor, the King presumptive of Connaught, was treacherously slain by Cathal O'Conor. Cathal O'Conor fell, slain in battle, by Roderic O'Conor, with a great army.”

This instance of the family feuds, so frequent at the period, needs no comment.

“ 1082. Battle of Mona-Crunnedge, where was slain Donogh, the son of Grollach O'Ruarc.”

Donogh O'Ruarc had invaded Leinster, with an army collected from Brefny, Galen, and Carbury, when he was met here by Murrough O'Brien, King



of Munster, with auxiliaries from the Danes, and the people of Leinster and Ossory. Tigernach says, 4000 fell in the action, adding, that the head of O'Ruarc was carried to Limerick. This Annalist also mentions a severe visitation of pestilence, in the same year, "affecting the throat, and most contagious from poisonous *miasmata*."

"1085. Turlough, the son of Thady, the son of Brian, died."

He had succeeded to the monarchy of Ireland on the deposition of his uncle Donogh, as before suggested, though some, as Moore remarks, who consider his claims inferior to those of the above-mentioned Diarmid, withhold from him, during the life-time of the latter, the full title of monarch. On the death of Diarmid, however, at Odva, there remained no competitor to dispute his supremacy, and natives and foreigners alike submitted to the homage he demanded. Soon afterwards he designed and succeeded in driving Godred, the chief of the Danes, from the petty sovereignty which he assumed in Dublin; and Turlough thereupon appointed his own son, Murcertach, to rule that people—the first acknowledged Irish king of the Danes. He is also said, on the request of the inhabitants of Man, to have appointed one of his own blood, their ruler ("*Chronicon Manniæ*"). That Turlough's character was respected in distant countries, appears from a letter, purporting to be from Lanfranc, the

English primate, addressed to him as "Turlough the magnificent, King of Ireland;" and from another of Pope Gregory the Seventh, in which he styles him the illustrious King of Ireland. "As a slight, but additional proof of his rank having been known and recognized," says Moore (citing the *Annals of Inisfallen*), "in other countries, we find mention of the arrival of five Jews from the continent, bearing valuable presents for him; from some repugnance, however, on the part of the monarch, to an offering of gifts from such hands, these Jews, with their presents, were, by his order, dismissed from the kingdom. The hospitality, however, of the nation, to strangers, was more than once experienced, in the course of his reign, by some fugitive Welch princes, who sought for refuge on these shores. One of these, Gryffyth ap Conan, was, by the aid of the princes of Ulster, restored to his dominions, and there seems to break upon us, in the midst of all this gloom and barbarism, a refreshing gleam of civilized life, when informed that Gryffyth, on his return to Wales, was accompanied by a number of Irish bards and harpers, whom he had selected for the purpose of improving the taste of his countrymen in music." The *Annals of the Four Masters* thus minutely mention the circumstances of Turlough's death. "Turlough O'Brien, King of Ireland, after a prolonged sickness, for he never was well, from the time that he carried off the head of Conor O'Melaghlin from Clonmacnois, died at Cencora, in the twenty-second year of

his reign, and seventy-seventh of his age, after long continued martyrdom, and austere penance for his sins, and after that he had received the body and blood of Christ." His son, Thady O'Brien, died in the same month, when Murtough, the brother of Turlough, succeeded to a disputed crown.

"The years from the Incarnation of our Lord to Turlough, were 1086; the lapse of time from the beginning of the world, was 6285 years."

" 1087. Battle of Connaught, fought by Roderic, the son of Hugh O'Connor, in which fell Hugh, the son of Arthur O'Ruarc, and the nobles of all Conmacne were discomfited and slain."

Tigernach says the field of feud, on this occasion, was in Coran. Conmacne, mentioned in the text, was a sub-denomination of Brefny, inhabited by the sept of Mac Ranell. Here, it is to be regretted, the truly valuable History of Tigernach closes, and illustration from that candid source ceases.

" 1088. Turlough O'Connor was born."

He was the son of Roderic, mentioned in the preceding year, destined to displace the O'Brien dynasty, and succeed Murtough in the government of Ireland.

" The citadel of Cencora(*a*) was destroyed, and Lime-

(*a*) Cencora, whose ramparts and fosse are still faintly traceable near Killaloe, was erected by Brian Boroimhe, as a royal residence for the kings of Thomond. The Annals of Inisfallen record, that in 1009, the Bishop of Armagh, with his clergy, and Donough,

rick was burned by the son of the son of Loughlin, and by Roderic O'Conor."

This desolation was caused by Murtough, the son of Niall, the son of Loughlin, of the Hy-Niall (O'Neill) family; he was then very young, and became afterwards King of Ireland. He brought with him a large force from Alichia and Uriel, and was aided, as in the text, by Roderic, then King of Connaught.

" 1092. O'Fallaman(a), the Religious, was drowned in

the son of Gilla Phadruic, King of Ossory, passed the Easter with him here. In 1011, when he led his forces to Magh-Adair, despoiled that district, and carried off its dynast, he confined him in Cencora. In 1061, O'Conor led an army against Munster, burned Killaloe, wasted Cencora, "eat the salmon out of the fish-pond, and afterwards poisoned the pond." In 1073, the head of Murtough O'Melaghlin was, as before alluded to, forcibly carried off from Clonmacnois, by Turlough O'Brien, and buried here, twelve years after which that Turlough died here.

(a) The sept of O'Fallon, which this name properly indicates, was one of the Heremonian stock, branching from Conn, styled "of the Hundred Battles." At periods preceding the ordinary use of surnames, the Four Masters notice the deaths of Bran O'Faolan, "King of Leinster," in 690; of Dubdan O'Feolan, Abbot and Bishop of Clonard, in 716; of O'Fallon, Abbot of Birr, in 780; of Arritach O'Fallon, Abbot of Armagh, in 793; of another O'Fallon, King of Leinster, in 857; and of Maolcola O'Faolan, Abbot of Clanhudagh, in the same year. The latter notice suggests the extension of the name to what became subsequently its chief seat, Clanhudagh, in the ancient territory of Hy-Maine, and a lake, called by Colgan Lough Calgach, within that district, appears to have been the scene of the above atrocity. Another branch settled southward, and are recognized as petty princes of the Desies, county Waterford (now a Barony,

Lough Cargin, through enmity. Roderic O'Connor, King of

giving title to Lord Stuart). The Annals of Inisfallen, in particular, state, that in 979, Donald O'Faolan, King of the Desies, incited an insurrection against Brian Boróimhe, in which he was aided by the Danes of Waterford. Brian, however, overcame their confederacy, defeated them in battle, and slew O'Faolan. At the year 1024, the Four Masters record some achievements of the tanist of the O'Faolans; and at 1038 state, that O'Donoghue, the King presumptive of Cashel, was there slain by O'Faolan. In 1056, died Tuathal O'Fallon, Abbot of Clonard, as did, in thirty years afterwards, O'Fallon, prince of the Desies; in 1117, Conor O'Fallon, comorb of Clonard; and in 1130, Diarmid O'Fallon, tanist of the Clanhudagh. In 1141, one of the early victims of Diarmid Mac Murrough's cruelty, was Donogh, chief of the Faolans, and King presumptive of Leinster, whom he slew, together with Murrough O'Toole. In 1150, O'Fallon, Abbot of Clonard, died at Kells; in the following year, Hugh, son of Rory O'Fallon, chief of the Clanhudagh, fell at the battle of Moimmore, and in two years afterwards, Melaghlin Mac Murrough, King of Meath, exacted pledges from the territory of Offaley, and from the O'Fallons. In 1159, Ceternach O'Fallon, tanist of the sept of Clanhudagh, was killed in an engagement with the army of Ulster. In 1161, Roderic O'Connor, King of Ireland, entered Meath, and received, amongst others, the hostages of the O'Fallons, with those of the chiefs of Offaley. In the same year, died Fallon O'Fallon, chief of the Clanhudagh, in holy orders. The resistance of O'Faolan, Prince of the Desies, to the first attempts of the English invaders, are too well known to justify insertion in a note. In 1171, the Welch adventurers despoiled the territories of the O'Fallons; in ten years after which, O'Faolan, King of the Desies, marched with his forces to Lismore, and razed its castle, slaying sixty men in the assault. In 1187, Malachy O'Faolan, Prince of the Desies, co-operated in refounding and endowing the celebrated Abbey of Inislaunagh, in the County Tipperary: the death of his descendant, Art Corb O'Faolan, is noticed at

Connaught, was deprived of sight by Flaherty O'Flaher-

1203, as having occurred in a visitation of the plague, which desolated his territory; his successor, Daniel O'Faolan, died at Cork, in the army of the Lord Justice Meiler Fitz Henry, in 1206. In 1244, Ros O'Faolan, of Desies, was one of the chiefs whose aid Henry the Third requested on his meditated expedition against Scotland. In 1382, John O'Faolan was Abbot of Aghaboe, and founded a chauntry there, the ruins of which are still discernible. In 1500, Donald O'Fallon, a Franciscan, was advanced by the Pope to the see of Derry. "He was accounted," says Ware, "a man of great reputation in his time for learning, and a constant course of preaching through all Ireland, which he continued during full thirty years. In the sixteenth century it was meditated to banish or slay, as well the O'Kellys as the O'Fallons of Hy-Maine, but the mild and conciliating policy of the Lord Deputy, Sir Anthony St. Leger, averted this barbarity. In 1578, Edmund O'Fallon, of Athlone, had a grant of various castles, houses, mills, weirs, gardens, &c., in the vicinity of that town, and of tithes in sundry other places. In 1585, an agreement, still of record, took place on behalf of the competitors for the tanistship of the O'Kellys, and their sub-feudatories, with the government of the day, to which Covagh O'Fallon, as chief of his sept, is a party; he is described as of Miltown, a townland in the parish of Dysart, and Barony of Athlone, where the ruins of his castle are yet to be seen. By that treaty, the O'Kellys bound themselves thenceforth "to bring up their children after the English fashion, and in the use of the English tongue." In 1631, the monastery of the Conception was founded at Prague, by Ferdinand the Second, at the instance of Father Malachy Fallon, of that fraternity. In 1647, William Fallon, of Miltown, and Stephen Fallon, of Athlone, were two of the confederate Catholics who attended the assembly at Kilkenny. After the civil war of this period, and in consequence of the confiscations declared thereupon, Anthony Fallon preferred claims for certain lands in the County Galway, as his ancient estate, as did Roger O'Fallon, for other

ty(a), and his people of Western Connaught. From the Incarnation of our Lord, to the time when Roderic was so

possessions in said County, and in the County Roscommon; while Dermot, Dominick, John, Laughlin, William, Edmund, and Teigue, made similar claims to be restored, as to the ancient estates of their ancestors, in the County Roscommon. In 1677, Edmund Fallon passed patent for 344 acres statutable measure, in the barony of Tyaquin, County Galway; but in the civil war of 1688, this Edmund (who had been sovereign of Athlone) was, together with Thomas Mor Fallon, of Tulsk, attainted, when various claims affecting their estates were proved at Chichester House, on Cork Hill, Dublin, at which period the general interest of this notice necessarily closes.

(a) O'Flaherty (by some spelled O'Flahertie) was the chief of a sept long known in the annals of Irish history, and from an early period seised of the district of Iar-Connaught, or Connemara, comprising the present baronies of Moycullen and Ballinahinch. In 1132, Connor, King of Munster, despatched a body of troops by sea, to take the Castle of Galway, which his general, Cormac Mac Carthy, having effected, put the garrison to the sword, levelled and destroyed the castle and town, and soon after defeated and slew Conor O'Flaherty, Lord of Iar-Connaught. About fifty years afterwards the Abbey of Easroa is supposed to have been founded for Cistercians by O'Flaherty, and in 1230, Hugh O'Flaherty, then chief of the sept, declared in favour of the pretensions of Felim O'Conor to the government of Connaught, and fortified himself within the Castle of Galway. In five years afterwards, the English invaded his territory, but concluded a peace with him "for himself, his people, and his kin." In 1243, the O'Flaherty was one of the Irish chiefs summoned by Henry the Third, to do service against the King of Scotland. In 1300, Roderic O'Flaherty, styled "*Regulus occidentalis partis Connacix*," is recorded as having been a great patron of the bishopric of Annaghdown. In 1305 Donat O'Flaherty, Bishop of Killalla, was interred in the Priory of Mullingar. About fifty years af-

deprived of sight, was an interval of 1092 years; from the beginning of the world 6291 years."

terwards the O'Flaherty, endowed in Iar-Connaught a commandery for Knights Hospitallers, at Kinalekin, and a Carmelite monastery at Ballinahinch; while, in 1427, the tanist founded the Dominican monastery of Tombeola, at the head of Roundstone Bay. In the sixteenth century the O'Briens were expelled from the Isles of Aran, by the O'Flahertys of Iar-Connaught, when a royal commission issued, which reported them to be the right of the Queen, who, in 1587, granted them to John Rawson, of Athlone. In 1538 Hugh, the O'Flaherty, made his submission to the viceroy, Lord Leonard Grey, then in Galway, and in four years afterwards, when Henry the Eighth was proclaimed King of Ireland, amongst the native chiefs who took the oath of allegiance and renounced the Pope's authority, were O'Neill, O'Conor, O'Carroll, O'Mulloy, O'Ruarc, O'Flaherty, O'Reilly, O'Melaghlín, O'Kelly (Abbot of Knockmoy), &c. In 1569, Morrogh na dhú, the son of Teigue O'Flaherty, was appointed captain of the sept, by reason, as the royal appointment relies, of the unfitness and disobedience of Donald O'Flaherty, theretofore their tanist; he was afterwards knighted, and appears to have been the same individual who, in 1585, sat in Queen Elizabeth's memorable Parliament, at Dublin, having been the first of his family who held his estate by English tenure, for which object he surrendered to the Crown all his manors, castles, demesnes, lands, advowsons, &c., in the Counties of Galway and Mayo, as also the captainship, name, and title of O'Flaherty, and "the Irish customs to the same name incident," all of which the Queen re-granted to him in 1587, with half the goods of every person attainted within his territory; power of holding courts baron and leet with seneschal, &c. In 1589, however, Sir William Fitzwilliams, the sanguinary Viceroy, who executed the shipwrecked Spaniards of the Armada that were cast upon Galway, obliged this Sir Murrough to restore all spoils he had got by the wreck, and to deliver up such Spaniards as he had sheltered. He died in 1594, leaving



The guilt of O'Flaherty towards this king of Connaught was not suffered to remain long unavenged, and the next notice of the Annalists is

Rory O'Flaherty his heir and the chief. In 1607 Teigue O'Flaherty of Arde, was found to be captain of the sept, in three years after which Thomas Ibbots and Henry Perse obtained a leasehold interest from the Crown, in the lands of the O'Flahertys, "in consideration of their having undertaken, at their own expense, to bring the inheritance to the Crown." In 1626, Murrough na Mor O'Flaherty, who had been one of the adherents of the Earl of Desmond in the Munster wars, dying, was interred in the Franciscan Friary of Galway with his ancestors. In 1630 Roderic O'Flaherty, the author of the *Ogygia*, was born on the land that had once belonged to his ancestors; he dedicated the first part of his work to the Duke of York, afterwards James the Second, but poverty prevented its continuation. In this volume O'Flaherty takes occasion to introduce a melancholy picture of his own fortunes: "Being deprived of my father," he says, "at two months old, I became, by the laws of my country, a ward to the king, and, according to the custom of the kingdom, paid money for his protection; but, before the law allowed me to take possession of my inheritance, I lost my guardian, by the murder of my king, when I was nineteen years old, and the royal heir, six months younger than myself, was forced to seek his bread in foreign realms. God wonderfully restored the royal heir to his kingdom, without war and effusion of blood, to the satisfaction of all good men, but he did not find me worthy to be restored to the kingdom of my cottage. Against thee only, O Lord, have I sinned! Blessed be the name of the Lord!" Mr. Molyneux, the antiquarian, has left an interesting account of his visit to this old gentleman, in 1709. It is in manuscript, in the College collection (L 4. 12). In 1641 Morogh Dhu O'Flaherty was chosen one of the captains of the forces raised by the Assembly, held then at Loughrea; he was married to a daughter of Viscount Mayo, was actively opposed to the Marquess of Clanrickard, a pri-

“1094. The battle of Fiodnach(a), in which fell many of

soner at Sligo, in 1645, and subsequently passed out of Ireland to the court of the exiled Charles, on the continent, after which, under the Act of Settlement, Mr. Richard Martin obtained, on the Restoration, a grant from that king of the ancient patrimony of the O’Flahertys, which is still held by his descendants. Of this sept were Francis O’Flaherty, one of those of Lally’s regiment of brigade, wounded in the battle of Lauffield village, near Maestricht, in 1747 ; Count O’Flaherty, who had been long in the Imperial service, and died at Nice in 1768 ; and General O’Flaherty, who, after many years passed in the army of Spain, died at Madrid, in 1770.

(a) This was the more ancient name of Fenaugh, in the County of Leitrim, where an Abbey had been founded about five centuries previous, of which some ruins are still discernible, and a drawing of them, taken in 1792, is to be found in Grose’s “Antiquities.” The abbey originated in the time of St. Columba, when St. Callin, *alias* Kilian, was placed as bishop or abbot over it, by whose exertions a school was opened, of great resort, from even remote parts of the continent. The patron afterwards, from a desire to extend the benefit of his services, visited Rome on a pilgrimage, and there succeeded in obtaining a commission to preach the Gospel in Artois, which authority he executed with great judgment and success, and, dying early in the seventh century, was buried at Aubigney, near Arras. Close to the ruins of the church of Fenaugh, so established by him, is a well, dedicated to his memory. In reference to existing records of this house, it is only allowable here to say, that in 1595, on inquisition taken as to its possessions, it was found that there was here an Hospital, Termon-Erenach, or Corbeship, and that it was endowed with four quarters of land. Fenaugh is now parochial. From this, its ancient establishment, as from other ecclesiastical fraternities, emanated the “Annals” that take name from it. The original was seen by the compiler of this work, in the summer of 1842, during his inspection of the barony of Boyle, in the possession of the

the people of Iar-Connaught and of Corcumroe, slain by Teigue, the son of Roderic O'Connor."

The Annals of the Four Masters state the number of the slain as 300.

"1095. The Cistercian order was established [in Ireland]. Flaherty O'Flaherty, King of Connaught, was slain by Matudan O'Chuan, in revenge for the eyes of his king. Donald O'Heney(*a*), Archbishop of Cashel, died."

It does, however, appear from the Four Masters, that this O'Flaherty, having previously made his submission, was received into the protection of Hugh O'Connor, restored to his estates, and obtained again the chieftaincy of the Clan-Murtough; but the vengeance of a liegeman of Roderic O'Connor, whom, as before mentioned, the above Flaherty had deprived of sight,

Rev. Mr. Rodigan, then officiating priest at the Arigna chapel, and who seemed to hold it as an heir-loom; it was finely written on vellum, to the extent of fifty folios, noted in several places by the antiquary, Thady Rody. Amongst other matters, it is stated in this curious manuscript, that St. Columba made a confession at Fenaugh, to St. Kilian, as also that the school there had, at one time, 1210 scholars on the establishment.

(*a*) This individual is commended by the Annals of the Four Masters, as "a great ascetic and venerable prelate, first of the Irish in science and religion, the fountain of advice in western Europe, and deeply versed in the Roman and Irish canons." He assisted in the year of his death at an Irish council, in which Waterford was erected into a bishopric; it is probable he died of the pestilence mentioned above. A subsequent prelate of his family name, Matthew O'Heney, succeeded to Cashel in 1192, while Charles O'Heney is recorded as Bishop of Killaloe in 1195, as was Cornelius O'Heney in 1215.

thus speedily overtook him. The Four Masters record a visitation of plague in this year, which the "*Chronicon Saxonum*" refers to 1096, and states, as the result of famine; so many are said to have perished thereof, that a hundred graveyards were filled with the dead. Severe fasts were proclaimed to be observed, and considerable endowments were made for the service of the Church, when, add the Annalists, "the men of Ireland were freed, for this turn, from sickness and plague." To this time Holinshed refers a settlement of the Easterlings, on the north side of the Liffey, adjoining Dublin, "which, of them," he adds, "is to this day called Ostmantown." In the following year it was, that William Rufus, having made an expedition into South Wales, on seeing Ireland from the Cambrian hills, avowed an intention of one day becoming its conqueror. The circumstance is very fully detailed in the "*History of Drogheda*," vol. ii. p. 36. He it was who is said to have sent to King Murtough, to solicit a supply of oak from the Irish forests, for the roof of Westminster Hall, where, adds Hanmer, "no English spider webbeth or breedeth to this day."

"1098. A great army was led by Murtough O'Brien round Ireland."

His journey was with the object of obtaining hostages from the dynasty of Hy-Niall. As related by the Four Masters, he was aided in the expedition by the people of Leinster, Ossory, Meath, and Con-

naught, at the head of whom he proceeded beyond Ballyshannon into Inishowen, and, after burning many churches and forts, levelled the palace of Alichia, in revenge for the destruction of Cencora, by Murtough, of the Hy-Niall line, a short time previous. On this occasion he ordered his army to carry off the stones of this citadel, as tokens of triumph, to Limerick; he afterwards passed into Uriel, and made thence the circuit of Ireland, alluded to in the Annals, succeeding to his wishes without battle or opposition. In the following year this O'Brien led his host to Dublin against Magnus and his Norwegian followers, who had come over to carry off plunder from Ireland, but the invaders, on this occasion, entered into a treaty of peace for one year with the Irish, and Murtough gave his daughter in marriage to Sitric, the son of Magnus, with various precious gifts.

“ 1104. Battle of Magh-Coba(a),”

in which Murtough O'Brien was defeated, with signal loss, by the people of Ulster, after which, the before-mentioned

“ Magnus, king of the people of the lakes, was slain by the army of Ulster, with many of his followers.”

(a) This was a plain within the present barony of Dungannon, in the County Tyrone. Its name is considered to be preserved in that of the present village of Coagh, according to Dr. Lanigan, and his suggestions are always to be respected.

He fell in the attempt to exercise his predatory profession over the territories of the north.

“1105. Fiachra O’Flynn(a) was slain. Murgius O’Concanen, King of the Diarmits, died.”

(a) The first recorded member of this family has shed much light on its subsequent lineage. Eochy O’Flynn, at the close of the tenth century, was the author of various historic poems, which are yet, by Irish scholars, considered valued relics, and as such are preserved in the Books of Lecan, Ballymote, and Invasions. In 1081, Coindeagan O’Flynn died Abbot of Clonfert, as did Conla O’Flynn, Abbot or Bishop of Leighlin, in 1113. In the following year died Diarmid O’Flynn, Bishop of Emly, and “a bountiful dispenser of money, food, and alms.” In 1121, Cumagh, son of Deorad O’Flynn, described as chief of Durlass, was drowned in Lough Neagh, after the people of that country had wrested from him, with the loss of forty-five persons slain in battle, the dominion of the island of Raghery. In 1133, when Cormac Mac Carthy, and Conor O’Melaghlin invaded Connaught, they slew the son of Cathal O’Conor, and Gildas O’Flynn, chief of the sept. Maolruan burned Dunmore, took the son of O’Hanly of Slieve-Ban prisoner, &c. In 1177, when Roderic O’Conor, King of Connaught, endowed Tuam with considerable possessions, Hugh O’Flynn was one of the witnesses to the grant. In 1212, the sovereignty of Desmond was forcibly acquired by Cormac Mac Carthy, on which occasion O’Flynn, whose ancestors had theretofore been chiefs of Muskerry, was slain by him. In 1222 died Maolisa O’Flynn, Prior of Inchmacnerin, while the Annals of Inisfallen record, in 1240, the death of Hugh O’Shaughnessy, slain by Conor Crovedearg and Fiacha O’Flynn. In 1244, O’Flynn, described as “King of Turteri,” was one of those to whom Henry the Third directed letters, requesting their assistance in his meditated expedition against the Scots. His territory then lay chiefly within what is now called the Barony of Dunmore, in the County Galway. In 1256, Fiacha O’Flynn, Archbishop of Tuam,

"1106. Donald, the son of Roderic O'Conor, was driven from his kingdom by Murtough O'Brien, and his brother Turlough substituted in his place."

The inauguration of Turlough, consequent upon this jealous outrage, is said, by the Four Masters, to have taken place at the ford of Tarmon, i. e. Tarmon-Barry, on the Shannon.

"1110. A victory obtained by the people of Conmacne, over the Clan Murdoch, i. e. the victory of Magh-Brengar(a). Victory obtained by the Clan Murdoch over the people of Conmacne, i. e. the victory at Ross."

In these engagements, as detailed by the Four Masters, Turlough O'Conor, afterwards King of Connaught, led the Clan-Murdoch, i. e. his own sept; while the people of Conmacne were, in this case (for there

died at Bristol. Necessarily passing over intermediate notices of this family, and many inquisitions taken of their possessions in the Counties of Roscommon and Galway, it may be mentioned, that in 1642, Hugh O'Flynn was, with others, appointed to draw up a form of government by the confederate Catholics, at Kilkenny, in whose Assembly he sat as one of the Commons, in 1646. In 1703, Joseph Mitchell, of Dublin, had a grant of various lands in the barony of Ballintobber, County Roscommon, the estate of Feaghry Flynn, as had John Trench of other lands, in the barony of Ballymoe, the estate of the same attainted proprietor.

(a) Magh-Brengar was a district in Hy-Maine, while Ross, in this notice mentioned, was outside it, in the County of Roscommon, and still gives name to a locality in the parish of Elphin; it is identified by the description of the Four Masters, as being in Magh-Ai, on the approach to the royal fort of Rath-Croghan.

were several districts of that name), from the present County of Longford, and three of their leaders O'Ferrals, fell at Ross.

— "1111. The synod of Usneach(*a*), held by the clergy of Ireland."

(*a*) The hill of Usneach, in the barony of Rathconrath, County Westmeath, acquired, from the most early times, an historic reputation. On its summit the Magian worship was most especially celebrated by the Tuatha de Danans, the stones of whose temple are still traceable, but scattered and broken, over the hill. There the third king of their dynasty, Luighaid, styled the "long handed," was buried. The centre stone of this temple crowned the summit of the mountain, and, being in the centre of the island, was expressively called the navel of Ireland; from this eminence also pointed four roads to the respective provinces, while it was itself surrounded by Meath, the seat and mensal appanage of the supreme sovereign. In the first century of the Christian era, Tuathal, accounted the ninety-eighth of the Milesian royal succession, established, that annual meetings of the petty princes and Magian priesthood should be held here; the celebration of their rites having been so accordingly continued, Usneach was as an abomination to St. Patrick, who, early after his mission, is recorded to have displaced the temple, solemnly anathematized its stones, and endowed the then recently established Abbey of Clonmacnois, with the surrounding district, which had theretofore been appropriated for the support of paganism. At this time he also caused a church to be erected at its foot, thence called Kill-Usneach, now Killare; a few years after which, Ængus, King of Munster, having fallen here in battle, slain by the two sons of the King of Leinster, the place is sometimes called Feidh-Ængus. About the middle of the sixth century, St. Kevin, of Glendalough, hearing that Columba, Congal, and Cannice, three holy Abbots, were together at Usneach, journeyed thither to visit them. In 970, Brian Boroimhe, with three hundred boats of men, went up



This synod was held more especially by the princes and magnates of the southern half of Ireland, Murtough O'Brien, then lately elected king, being with them. They had also Celsus, Bishop of Armagh, fifty other Bishops and Abbots, and three hundred priests; they ordained statutes and rules of order, as well secular as ecclesiastical; and on this occasion, say the Annalists of Inisfallen, the diocese of Meath was divided between the Bishops of Meath and Clonmacnois. Another council of the northern half of Ireland, was, about the same time, held, for somewhat similar objects, at Rath-Braisil, i. e. Clanbrassil, in the County of Armagh, when arrangements were made for the ultimate consolidation of the then numerous rural bishoprics of Ulster, into nearly the number that existed to a recent period. The Annals of Inisfallen record a very abundant harvest in the following year.

“ 1114. Sickness of Murtough O'Brien.”

The Annals of Inisfallen say, that this sickness seized him in midsummer, and was the cause of many misfortunes, battles, crimes, devastations, homicides, and sacrileges, which endured while that disease deprived the country of his authority and control. In fact it appears, that even the sovereignty was, during this

Lough-Ree, and devastated Meath to and beyond Usneach; and in 1141, a treaty of peace was here entered into between Turlogh O'Connor and Murtough O'Melaghlin, more particularly alluded to in the text hereafter.

period, usurped by Diarmit O'Brien, while Turlough, the son of Roderic O'Conor, was, in various hostile expeditions, establishing that character for courage and command, which afterwards advanced him to the throne. In one of these excursions, in 1115, he led out the forces of Connaught into Thomond, wasted the O'Brien territory, and carried off much spoil and many captives; immediately afterwards, however, having sought to extend his ravages eastward, into O'Melaghlin's territory, occurred

"1115. The defeat of Turlough at Athboe Tlachthoe(a), and he was utterly driven out of that country.—Snow

(a) Athboe, i. e. the Ford of Oxen, now called Athboy, gives name to an ancient borough town, five miles from Trim; it was distinguished from other localities by the addition in the text. About a century previous to the above period, O'Melaghlin obtained a signal victory here over the Danes. In 1167, on the eve of the English invasion, Roderic O'Conor here assembled a great convention of the princes and clergy of Ireland, amongst whom were the Primate, the Archbishop of Tuam, and the justly celebrated St. Laurence O'Toole, styled Archbishop of Leinster (see of him "*History of the Archbishops of Dublin*," p. 51, &c.) There also were Diarmit O'Melaghlin, King of Meath, Dunslevy O'Eochada, King of Ulidia, Ragnall, son of Ragnall, chief of the Danes, Tiernan O'Ruarc, prince of Brefny, Donogh O'Carrol, prince of Uriel, &c. The Four Masters number the assembly as 13,000 horsemen, 6,000 Connaught men, 4,000 with O'Ruarc, 2,000 with O'Melaghlin, 4,000 with O'Carrol and with O'Eochada; 2,000 with Donogh, the son of Faolan, and 1,000 with the Danish leader. Excellent regulations were here then made for laity and clergy, and the parties "separated with peace and concord, without battle, without strife, without recrimination from any one to the other," all which results the Annalists attribute to the pru-

storms.—The people of Conmacne were banished from Magh-Edar Samen, to the eastern parts of Leinster.”

The snow storms here noted, are also recorded in the Annals of Ulster, and in the “*Chronicon Saxo-num*,” with the consequent mortality of cattle, while Florence of Worcester says, that at this period almost all the bridges of England were shattered by the intensity and long continuance of frost. The people of Conmacne, alluded to at the close of this notice, were the O’Ferralls of the County Longford, and the desolation of their country was perpetrated by Tur-

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dent management of the King, who had convened them. In 1190, Murtough O’Brien desolated the country round Athboy. In 1317, a friary for Carmelites was founded here, by William de Loundres, which he endowed with very large possessions, vesting them by deed in trustees, to be held for its use in frankalmoigne, for ever. In 1325, a chapter of the order was held here, when many useful rules of discipline were established, as was another chapter in 1467. In 1395, Richard the Second gave the tolls of Athboy, with those of several other boroughs in Meath, to aid in fortifying same. The patronage of the parish church of St. James here, was then recognized to belong to the Crown, and within it was a chauntry dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, for the support of which, the corporation of the town, and several other private individuals, were considerable benefactors. In 1408, 1446, 1463, 1494, and 1612, this corporation obtained royal charters of privileges. In 1442, the town suffered considerably from fire. In 1667, Sir George Rawdon, and William Brett, passed patent for extensive possessions within the town and liberties of Athboy, part of which had theretofore belonged to the corporation; and in 1694, Thomas Bligh, of Rathmore, ancestor of the Earl of Darnley, had a grant of the townlands and commons of Athboy, which were then erected into a manor, with the usual incidences.

lough, in his retreat from Athboy; immediately afterwards, say the Four Masters, he offered three precious gifts on the altar of St. Ciaran, at Clonmacnois; viz., a horn inlaid with gold, a cup similarly inlaid, and a *patena* of pure gold.

“ 1116. Signal defeat of Diarmit O’Brien, at Ruad-Be-tagh(a).”

(a) This place, otherwise called Rathbotha, and by many supposed to be the Robogdium of Ptolemy’s map, is now known as Raphoe, and was, in the earliest days of the Irish Christian Church, established as an episcopal see, under the auspices of St. Columba. His foundation was improved upon by St. Adamnan, the celebrated Abbot of Iona, from whom the succession of its Abbots or Bishops is given very fully in the Annals of the Four Masters. Immediately previous to 1126, the chief of Tyrconnel, with his forces, having ravaged Connaught, the people of that province, in this year, went to Raphoe, as recorded in the Annals of Inisfallen, and brought off great spoil and prey thence. In 1266, a large part of the diocese of Raphoe was severed from it, and annexed to that of Derry. In 1381, the Bishop of Raphoe appears to have been, for the first time, summoned to Parliament. Its last diocesan, before the Reformation, assisted at the Council of Trent. In 1629, Doctor Andrew Knox, its second Protestant Bishop, had a grant of a weekly market and two fairs, to be held here. His successor, Doctor John Lesley, built a palace here, which, having been constructed in a fortified style, proved a refuge for many in the ensuing troubles. This was the prelate, who, when Sir Ralph Gore was besieged by the rebels in Magherabeg and reduced to great extremities, while the Lagan forces, consisting of three regiments, refused to hazard themselves for the relief of him and his party, sallied from his palace at the head of a company of his friends and tenants, and relieved the besieged. In 1642, Sirs Robert and William Stuart obtained a considerable victory near Raphoe, over forces of Sir Phelim O’Neill, slaying

This was the usurper, who, as before alluded to, had seized upon the government of Ireland, during the illness of his relative Murtough O'Brien, but whom his discomfiture here caused to be restored to the sovereignty. Diarmid had commenced this excursion with desolating Connaught, from which, in his progress into Tyrconnel, he sustained the above defeat, but the close of his career is noticed by the Annalists hereafter.

"1117. Diarmid, the son of Enna, King of Leinster and of Dublin, died.—Battle of Letrachadran(a)."

This engagement occurred in a provincial feud, between the O'Briens of Munster on the one side, and the sons of Cathal O'Conor, with the people of Connaught, on the other.

"Cathasach O'Cuail, Archbishop of Connaught, died; Maolmury O'Dunan, died in Christ on the 10th of the Calends of January; Diarmid O'Brien, King of Munster and of Leinster, died; Roderic O'Conor closed his life happily, in holy orders, at Clonmacnois."

Cathasach is, by the Four Masters, more correctly described as "Bishop" of Connaught. The Roderic O'Conor, here named, was the individual mentioned *ante, ad ann.* 1092, as having been then deprived of sight by O'Flaherty.

near 2,000 of his army. The castle was subsequently besieged by Cromwell's soldiers, at which time, it is supposed, the ancient records of the diocese were destroyed.

(a) The scene of this battle has not been identified.

" 1119. Murtough O'Brien, supreme King of Ireland, and at these times renowned above all for his scientific acquirements, closed his life in thorough faith."

He died, add the Four Masters, after a troublesome government, and was buried in the church of Killoe.

" 1120. The bridge of Athlone was constructed."

This was erected by Turlough O'Connor, King of Connaught, who, at the same time, caused two bridges to be thrown, one over the Suck, at Ballynasloe, and the other at Athacrogga.

" 1121. Donald, the son of Loughlin, King of Ireland, died."

" The most superior of the Irish race," add the Four Masters, " in form, descent, talent, activity, and bravery, and who munificently disbursed precious things and food to the rich and the poor; he died in Derry of Columb-Cille." This prince had been a partner in the government of Ireland, with Murtough, who died two years previously, and after this his decease ensued an interregnum of some years; " throughout the whole of which," says Moore, " all the various elements of strife and confusion, that had ever mixed themselves with the course of Irish polity, continued to rage in full ferment and force." The most enterprising, among the candidates for the monarchy, was the above-mentioned Turlough O'Connor, who had, during the reigns of Murtough and Donald, distinguished himself in the estimation of a warring popu-

lation, by several sanguinary inroads into the other provinces; in one of these he devastated Desmond and the church lands of Lismore, carrying off great spoil of cattle, but not without loss of many of his followers, amongst whom

“O'Hedian and O'Flaherty were slain.

“1124. Teigue, the son of Mac Carthy(a), of Munster, died.”

He is styled by the Four Masters Prince of Desmond and Governor of Munster; his death occurred at Cashel, where he had made a retreat for penitential exercises.

“The victory of Crieveross; Maolsechnall, the son of Teigue, King of Moylurg, was slain.”

This was the result of another predatory excursion of Turlough O'Connor, in which, after laying waste Carbury and Leney, the people of Meath and Leitrim made head against him, and slew several of his men, amongst whom was the above son of the king of Moylurg. In the turn of the day, however, Turlough became completely successful, so that many of the chiefs of his opponents, and their followers, were laid dead on the field: the name of the place of engagement is, by the Four Masters, enlarged to Crieve-roiss-da-Carn, and seems identified in the adjacent townlands of Crieve and Carn, in the parish

(a) The historic associations of this family are too extensive to detail here, and too important to abridge.

of Ballyloughloe, County Westmeath, not far from Moydrum Castle. Turlough, amidst all these external movements, did not forget to strengthen his own territories against the re-action of his enemies, and in this year he is stated to have erected the castles of Dunloe, Galway, and Culmoyle, and that of Athlone in four years afterwards; while, in 1125, aided by Tiernan O'Ruarc, he invaded Meath, and, driving Murrough O'Melaghlin from its sovereignty, appointed three distinct petty rulers over it.

" 1126. Enna, the son of Donough, the son of Murrough, King of Leinster, dies. Donald (the white) O'Duffy was slain."

He fell in an attempt to plunder Tyrconnel. Such tempests of great wars, as the Four Masters describe them, succeeded in this year, that Celsus, then Bishop of Armagh, was unable to return to his diocese for a space of thirteen months, feeling necessitated to devote that interval to exertions, for establishing peace and forbearance throughout the country, preaching unceasingly to the people, and prescribing rules of order and morality for clergy and laity. One of the exciting expeditions of this year was led by Turlough O'Connor to Dublin, when he conferred the kingdom of the Danes of that city and of Leinster on his son Conor, after the example afforded by his namesake, Turlough O'Brien, when King of Ireland. In 1127, Turlough led "a great fleet of 190 ships"



upon Lough-Dearg, and devastated the cantreds of Munster.

"1129. Celsus, Comorb of Patrick [i. e. the above Bishop of Armagh], died. A summer of great drought succeeded."

Almost the last political exertion of this justly revered prelate's life, was the mediation of a truce between the kings of Connaught and Munster, which yet he was but able to effectuate for one year; he did not live to see its expiration. The Annals of the Four Masters style him Archbishop of Western Europe, and state, that, having died in Ardpatrick, he was interred at Lismore, as his will directed; his funeral celebrated with psalms, hymns, and canticles, and his body buried with honour in the cemetery of Bishops.

"1130. A remarkably abundant harvest of all kinds of fruit in this year. Battle of Croive Tretan, where fell Diarmid O'Melaghlín, together with Chulfinch, the son of the son of Senan: Tiernan O'Ruarc was victorious."

This engagement occurred in the progress of a foray over Meath, to which O'Ruarc led his men of Brefny, and was aided by O'Brien, while Diarmid O'Melaghlín, here slain, was one of the rival chiefs, who, on the death of King Donald, in 1121, assumed to be his successor; he is accordingly styled King of Ireland by the Four Masters, who enumerate other chiefs that fell on that day.

"1131. Victory of Segsan (i. e. the Curlew Mountains), gained by the people of Connaught over those of the North of Ireland."

This attack was provoked by Conor, the son of Donald, the son of Loughlin, who, with his forces of Ulster, invaded Connaught. The parties upon the following day met at Lough-Ke, and concluded peace for one year, the too usual limit of armistice.

"1133. A great pestilence in this year.—The citadels of Dunmore and Dunmoghdairene were burned, by the people of Munster and Leinster and the son of Cathal O'Conor; and Gildas (styled 'of the Saints') O'Flynn was slain."

The desolation of Connaught, thus recorded (for both the fortresses here alluded to were seats of the O'Kellys, within the County of Galway), was perpetrated by Conor O'Brien, who had succeeded to the government of Munster, in 1120, and aspired to the supreme sovereignty; he was assisted, on this occasion by Cormac Mac Carthy, of Desmond. A negotiation, was, however, soon afterwards effected by the interference of the Archbishop of Tuam, greatly, it would appear, to the advantage of Turlough O'Conor, as his acknowledged accession to the throne of Ireland is properly referred to the year 1136. To these, the ravages of man, succeeded in this year, according to the Four Masters, an awful mortality of cattle, "so that there remained but a small portion thereof in Ireland."

## “1134. Consecration of the church of Cormac(a); Hugh

(a) Cashel, the scene of this imposing ceremony, the subject of which is still the delight of every Irish tourist, was once the royal seat and metropolis of Munster, and the stone, on which its kings were solemnly inaugurated, is traditionally pointed out in the ascent of that rocky hill, whose summit is magnificently crowned with the cathedral, the above beautiful chapel, and a round tower. It was but a few years previous to the above date, that Murtough O'Brien, having convened a great assembly of the clergy and people of this vicinity, solemnly assigned over this, his ancient inheritance, and dedicated it to God and St. Patrick; soon after which, Cormac Mac Carthy, King of Desmond, erected the chapel which was consecrated as above, but whose foundation is popularly attributed to Cormac Mac Cuilenan, before mentioned in this work. After its consecration a synod was held within it; and in 1169, Donald O'Brien built a new church beside it, which he endowed with very considerable possessions. In 1172, Henry the Second here received the homage of some of the Munster princes; and here also held a very important synod, at which the Pope's legate presided. In six years afterwards, Raymond le Gros defeated the Prince of Ossory in a signal engagement, near Cashel; and in 1216, Donat, Archbishop of the see, erected the town into a borough (which subsequently received many royal charters), soon after which various ecclesiastical establishments were founded and endowed within it. In 1315, "Bruce," says Pembrige, in his Annals, "went to Cashel, and thence to Nenagh, and laid waste the whole country with fire." In 1372, a Parliament was held here; and in 1382, it was appointed by the king, the meeting place for a general hosting of the available forces, to oppose Murrough O'Brien and the Irish of Munster. In some years afterwards, the vicars choral of the cathedral had a considerable endowment assured to them and their successors. In 1495 the Earl of Kildare, having an hostility to the Archbishop of Cashel, burned the cathedral, an act which he had the hardi-

O'Kelly, King of Hy-Maine, dies; Hugh, the son of the son of Coghlan(a), King of Delvin, dies."

hood to attempt excusing before the King, on the sole ground that he would not have done so, but that he supposed the Archbishop was in it at the time. In 1603, this town surrendered at discretion to the Lord Deputy Mountjoy; and in 1647, Lord Inchiquin having advanced against the city, the inhabitants fled to the cathedral as to a citadel; Inchiquin proposed to leave them unmolested, provided they would advance to him £3000, and a month's pay for his army; but, this proposal being rejected, he took the place by storm, with considerable slaughter of the citizens and soldiery, and in which twenty ecclesiastics also perished. The victor, likewise, acquired considerable booty. In 1690, those adherents of King William, that were wounded in the attack on Limerick, were hospitalled in Cashel.

(a) This family, who claim descent from Heber, the eldest son of Milesius, were early settled in that portion of Offaley, which was known by the name of Delvin Eachtra, now Garrycastle, in the King's County, and were accounted as one of the septs eligible to the royal dignity of Leinster. In 1096, the death of an O'Coghlan, Bishop and Vicar of Barry, is recorded, by the Four Masters, who also mention, that in 1133, the Abbey of Clonmacnois was plundered by the inhabitants of Silanchia (i. e. the O'Maddens, on the Shannon), aided by Conor Mac Coghlan. In 1175, Giolla Columb O'Mulloy, King of Fearcal, was slain by Rory, son of Conor Mac Coghlan, as mentioned in the "Mulloy memoir." In 1213, Melaghlin Mac Coghlan, prince of Delvin, died in pilgrimage, at the Abbey of Kilbeggan, while his immediate descendant, Conor Mac Coghlan, styled "of the castles," is lauded, according to the estimate of his times (1249), as "one of the greatest plunderers of the English ever known in Ireland." "In 1290," says Marleburgh, "was the chase or discomfiture of Ophaley, and divers Englishmen were slain, and Mac Coghlan slew O'Melaghlin, and William Bourke was discomfited at Delvin by Mac Coghlan." In 1427, Cormac Mac Coghlan, Dean of Clon-

"1135. The battle of Findabrach, obtained over Hugh, the son of Donald O'Connor, and over Thady O'Kelly, and

macnois, was consecrated to its see; in 1444 he was slain in a battle fought with another sept of his name. In 1508 "Master John Coghlan" died, chancellor of the cathedral of Ossory, in which he was buried. In 1585, John, commonly called Sir John, son of Art, son of Cormac Mac Coghlan, was one of the chiefs summoned to attend the Parliament of Elizabeth; and in 1599, his son, John Mac Coghlan, Junior, aided at Aghrim, in repelling a meditated invasion of Connaught by O'Sullivan and O'Connor Kerry. At, and previous to this time, Maolin Mac Brody, who is described by the Four Masters as "the best poet and historian that was in Ireland in his day," composed sundry verses, yet extant, in praise of the Mac Coghlan, "Princes of Delvin-Eachtra." In 1630, the Irish work, "the *Reim Rioghraidhe*, or Royal Catalogue," was finished at the convent of Athlone, under the patronage of Turlough Mac Coghlan, then styled "Lord of Delvin Eachtra," by whose management Clonmacnois, with 300 acres thereto attached, was, in a few years afterwards, with the sanction of Dr. Martin, then the diocesan, subtracted from the barony of Clonlunan, County Westmeath, and annexed to that of Garrycastle, in the King's County. In 1641, the Marquis of Clanrickard accused the O'Mulloys, Coghlan, Geogheghans, &c., of passing out of the King's County, and preying over that of Galway; in the following year, however, Terence Coghlan, of Kilcolgan, is described by that nobleman as "a gentleman of very good parts and ability, and of a disposition and integrity suitable thereto." In 1646, the Rev. Charles Coghlan, styled "Vicar-General of Leighlin," was an active member of the confederate Catholics, while John and Terence were of the commons who sat at Kilkenny. Their properties were confiscated, but by the Acts of Settlement and Explanation, certain savings were introduced for Mary, the widow of Terence, and for Francis Coghlan. In King James's Parliament of 1689, two Terence Coghlan sat as representatives of Banagher, while Joseph Coghlan was returned for

over the people of Hy-Maine, where fell Conor O'Kelly, the father of Thady, and many others; Conor, the son of Turlough, and the sept Siol-Murrough, were victorious.

"1136. Hugh, the son of Donald O'Conor, was slain."

The Four Masters say, that he had been elected to the command of the province by a faction, whereupon the rest of the people slew him, with a portion of his clan.

"Donald O'Duffy, Bishop of Elphin(a), and successor of

Trinity College; but of him Dr. King says, that being a Protestant, he retired from sitting, when the Acts of Attainder, and other bills of the session, were introduced: one of the aforesaid Terence Coghlan was a proprietor of the lands of Corbally, Corbay, Lecarrow, &c., in the ancient and more extended barony of Boyle, which, on his attainder, were granted to John Yeedon Lloyd, as were his possessions in the King's County, to the Hollow Blade Company. In 1690, Mr. Coghlan was one of the commissioners selected by King William, to manage and give protections to the Irish: private Acts of Parliament were also passed, in the reign of his successor, in aid of members of this family.

(a) This little town, in the County of Roscommon, has been the seat of a bishopric from the earliest establishment of Christianity in Ireland. St. Patrick, immediately after his missionary successes at Tara, passed, in 433, through Elphin and Croghan, to preach against the Pagan worship at Magh Sleught, in the present County Leitrim. On this occasion he founded a religious establishment here, over which he placed St. Assicus, as its first bishop, and left with him many of his disciples, as the elements for founding a school, which was afterwards of great repute. In 1167, the town suffered by fire, but yet more, in 1177, by the English. In 1195 Florentinus, the son of Riagan, of the tribe of Maolruan, died Bishop of Elphin. A patent roll of 1335 recites that John de Roscommon, Canon of its Cathedral, had been elected to the bishopric of that diocese, with the royal assent and favour;

Ciaran of Clonmacnois, died in Christ, at Clonfert-Brendan."

that such his election had been confirmed by the Archbishop of Tuam, and that the king had received his homage, and willed the restoration of the temporalities of his see; it therefore directs delivery thereof to him. In the middle of the fifteenth century, Cornelius, then Bishop of Elphin, granted the Abbey, and its possessions, to Conventual Franciscans, with the consent of his Chapter, and of the inhabitants. In 1460 is noticed the death of Rory, the son of Manus O'Connor, styled "Provost of Elphin." On the suppression of monasteries, in the ensuing century, those belonging to this were granted to Terence O'Byrne, after which the church became parochial, and was dedicated to the founder. On the 3rd of March Red Hugh O'Donnel was in Elphin, whence he despatched foraging parties over the vicinity, with instructions to drive in to him all the cattle of the English, and of such Irish as adhered to them. These scouring detachments returned to him about noon of the same day, with an immense number of cattle, and at the first light next morning he set out, with his army and prey, to his own country (*Life of Red Hugh O'Donnel*, MS.) In 1600 Sir Francis Barkley, in the Queen's service, had a hot skirmish near this town (where he then lodged) with "the traitorous confederates, O'Donnel, O'Ruarc, and Tyrrell," and in the following year, Richard Earl of Clanrickard, and Red Hugh, encamped, with their respective forces, opposite each other, near this town, and had some sharp skirmishing between them, although no general engagement took place; at length the Earl decamped, retreating leisurely, while O'Donnel, not being in sufficient force to harass his retreat, retired himself into Ulster. About twenty years afterwards, Doctor King, Bishop of the see, erected the Castle of Elphin, for himself and his successors, and attached to it lands which he had purchased. The town was burned in the troubles of 1641, but the castle was well maintained against its beleaguers, and was, in 1645, delivered by Bishop Tilson to the Lord President of Connaught, before that

“ 1137. Donald O'Maolsechnall, styled ‘the cheerful,’ was slain; Mora, the daughter of Murtough O'Brien, died.”

This Donald is described by the Four Masters, as then being king of Tara, and presumptive successor to the Crown of Ireland; he fell in rebellion against his father, Murrough O'Melaghlin, who then claimed to be king *de jure*. Mora, above mentioned, was Donald's mother: she died on a pilgrimage to Derry. The Masters also mention, as having occurred in this year, a severe fight on Lough Ree, between this Murrough, in the assertion of his claim, and Turlough O'Connor; the former with the people of Meath and Teffia, and auxiliaries from Brefny, under Tiernan O'Ruarc, mustered two hundred ships, while Turlough had but twenty. The Annalists likewise record such a calamitous tempest over Ireland, as felled trees, houses, churches, and, in some places, swept people and forts into the sea.

“ 1138. Cormac Mac Carthy, King of Desmond, was slain by Turlough O'Brien; Donogh, the son of Teigue, of the

Prelate retired from his see to England. In his absence the Church property having been encroached upon, a vote appears on the Journals of the Irish House of Lords, after the Restoration, whereby, reciting that “ the Castle of Elphin, with all the houses thereunto belonging, and the corn mill now in the possession of Captain ‘Maughan,’ did always belong unto the bishop of that see, and of right doth belong unto the now Lord Bishop,” the House directed that the Sheriff of the County Roscommon should deliver possession thereof to that prelate, without fail, at his peril.



sept Maolruan (Mac Dermot), was deprived of his sight by Turlogh O'Connor.

"1139. An eclipse of the sun.

"1140. An abundant year of fish."

The Four Masters relate, that a bridge of wattles was in this year thrown over the Suck at Athleague, and another across the Shannon, at Athlone, by Turlogh O'Connor, over which he transported his forces to the plains of Teffia; there, however, was he met by Murrough O'Melaghlin, with the army of Meath, and forced to retire; a subsequent treaty and armistice was concluded between the parties in Athlone. The same Annalists record, at this year, most sanguinary conflicts between the O'Briens and O'Ruarc's, and even between the Danes of Dublin and those of Waterford.

"1141. The nobles of Leinster rise against Diarmid Mac Murrough. The son of the son of Faolan, and of O'Toole(a),

(a) This once powerful family in the County of Wicklow, though still numerous traceable by name, especially amongst the tombstones of the district over which they once lorded, are no longer the proprietors of any portion of that ancient inheritance. That name they derived from the before-mentioned Tuathal, the 98th Irish monarch of the Milesian line, and their power was considered so influential, that they constituted one of the septs eligible to the dignity of kings of Leinster, maintained the right and privilege of electing the Bishops and Abbots of Glendalough, even for centuries after that see was united to Dublin; and in its picturesque solitude princes, bishops, and abbots, of their lineage, are interred. The O'Tooles are said to have struck their own coins before the English invasion. The Four Masters record the death

and the son of the son of Gorman, were slain; and the son of Giolla Mochud was deprived of sight by him."

of Art O'Toole, in 934; the sanguinary achievements of the grandson of Gildas Connal O'Toole, in 1075; and the fall of the O'Toole, chief of his sept, in 1119. In 1127, another Gildas Connal O'Toole, Abbot of Glendalough, was slain by the people of Leinster. Ugaire O'Toole, when king expectant of that province, obtained a victory over Melaghlin in 1133, but was himself afterwards slain in battle in Ossory. Murtough O'Toole was chief of the sept at the time of the English invasion, while Archbishop Laurence O'Toole, the uncompromising opponent of the early English invaders, was of this sept; and, while those invaders were establishing their dominion in the island, the O'Tooles were their most harassing antagonists, and are, accordingly, ranked on record amongst the Irish felons. In 1182, "Donogh Oge O'Toole fell by the men of the king of England." In the reign of Henry, they, jointly with the O'Byrnes, founded a monastery in the town of Wicklow, and erected castles at Carnew and Castle-Kevin (in the latter Piers Gaveston resided in 1308). In 1311, those two tribes invaded the Pale at their side, committed great depredations, and even plundered the Abbey of Baltinglass. In 1327, Donogh O'Toole, chief of his nation, was taken prisoner by Sir John de Wellesley, and in the following year, as Pembridge records in his Annals, "David O'Toole, a brave robber, an enemy of the king, a burner of churches, and destroyer of the people, was carried out from the Castle of Dublin to the Tholsel, where the Judges of the Bench sentenced him to be drawn at horses' tails, through the middle of the city, and then hanged, which was done." In 1331 Arklow Castle was besieged by the O'Tooles, but Lord de Bermingham relieved the garrison, and forced off the beleaguers with great slaughter. In 1333, Murrrough, son of Nicholas O'Toole, is recorded to have been assassinated in a crowd, as he was coming out of a Parliament, held in Christ Church, Dublin. Such were the ravages committed on the Pale during this century, by persons professing to be of this sept, that

This Diarmid was the petty king, at whose instance the English invasion was afterwards accomplished,

the Lord Deputy was obliged, in 1366, to make a treaty with Hugh O'Toole, its chief, whereby he was to receive, in consideration of his averting the visitations of marauders, a certain stipend, much in the nature of the well-known tribute of black mail. When Richard the Second passed through their country in 1399, they much impeded his progress, and destroyed a large body of his forces. In the reign of his successor, Henry the Fifth, the Deputy, Lord Furnival, reduced the O'Tooles, as he did other septa, to the King's peace. In 1497 occurs on the rolls a remarkable record, connected with this family ; Sir William Wellesley, of Dangan, having married Matilda O'Toole, a descendant of the chieftains of Imaal, he obtained a royal license by patent in this year, granting an extension of English laws, and English liberties, to her and their issue, a measure then absolutely necessary, in consequence of many Statutes in force against alliances with the natives : this Matilda, having survived Sir William, intermarried a second time with Patrick Hussey, without having sued out a fresh license, as it appears was necessary even in that case, and was, therefore, mulcted in a heavy fine. In the rebellion of "the Silken Lord," the O'Tooles were active participators, and wasted Fingal; in 1537, however, Terence O'Toole having submitted for himself and his brother, Art Oge O'Toole, and their sept and adherents, the Deputy concluded a treaty of peace with him for three years, and the King soon afterwards restored to them a portion of their estates. In 1560, Jacques Wingfield had a royal commission to execute martial law in the territories of the O'Byrnes and O'Tooles, classed in the record as "the two mischievous clans," that inhabited the glens of Wicklow; for his services on this occasion he received a grant of a considerable portion of their estates, yet enjoyed by his descendants. In a "Declaration of the government of Ireland, during the Vice-royalty of Sir William Fitz Williams," about 1590 appears the following statement: "There is one prisoner in the Castle of Dublin,

and by whose unparalleled atrocities, and reckless cruelty, the rebellion alluded to in the text was ex-

an aged gentleman, of whom I desire your Majesty shall take notice; his name is Sir Owen Mac Toole, one who was never traitor against your Majesty, nor ever in any traitorous action, but so good a subject and so faithful a servitor, as for his deserts he had a pension from your Majesty, whereof Sir John Perrot bereft him. This gentleman was sent for, with promise and assurance from the State that he should not be abridged of his liberty, contrary whereunto he was committed into prison, where he hath remained these eight years, for whose enlargement all bail hath been refused, yet is the gentleman of so great years as he is not able to go, and scarcely able to ride; for which reasons, and for the State's promise, he ought to find favour." Then, referring to his relative, Feagh Mac Hugh O'Toole, the captain of that devoted sept, the record says: "If this traitor should be made more strong by his friends, and that further force should be required against him, your Majesty's subjects in the English Pale would willingly yield to your Highness 600 soldiers, horse and foot, at their own charge, for six months, and longer, if need required, so as they might see your Majesty would once take him in hand, thus much many of the best of them instructed me to deliver to your Highness." In 1641, the ferocious Coote led an expedition into Wicklow, against the O'Byrnes and O'Tooles, who, in the same year, came down from the mountains, and, possessing themselves of the castles on the sea side, threatened destruction to Dublin. In 1642, the Marquis of Clanrickard writes, that a party of English returning to Dublin, from Ballysunnan, County Kildare, were set upon by the O'Byrnes and O'Tooles, and 400 of their number slain. General Ludlow, in his "Memoirs," gives a curious picture of the state of Ireland at his time in a notice of this family. "Luke Toole, head of a sept in the County Wicklow, being conscious of his guilt, had formerly desired my pass to come and treat with me about conditions for laying down the arms of himself and party, and to induce me to give him more favourable

cited. He had caused Donough, chief of the O'Faolans, his presumptive successor, and Murrough, captain of the sept of O'Toole, to be assassinated, while fifteen others of the nobles, and many of the humbler classes, were slain, or deprived of sight, by the ty-

terms, said he had a horse and saddle worth £100, which he desired I would accept of; I refusing his present, he took it as an ill omen to himself, for they are so accustomed to bribe their magistrates in that country, that if any one refuse their presents, they conclude him to be their enemy, and give their cause for lost; and, therefore, he submitted not at that time, but now, supposing he could by no means avoid falling into our hands, by reason of the number of garrisons placed in all points among them, who, by this time, were as well acquainted with their retreats and fastnesses as themselves, and, it may be, thinking there would not appear sufficient evidence to prove him guilty, he submitted himself upon the same conditions I had formerly offered him, which was, that he should be liable to be questioned for murder," whereof being accused before the Court at Dublin, he was convicted, sentenced, and executed. The estates of this unfortunate gentleman were consequently seized, and granted away by the Crown, as 15,441 acres of all sorts, with a castle called Kevin, and a fine river, full of salmon and trout. In King James's Parliament of Dublin, of 1689, Francis O'Toole was representative of the County Wicklow; and, at the Battle of the Boyne, Duke Schomberg is generally supposed to have fallen by the hand of Sir Charles O'Toole, one of that monarch's body guard. Many members of the family followed the royal exile to the Continent, and were signalized in the records of the Irish Brigade, while another, when a captain in the Spanish service, was of the four who succeeded in carrying off Maria Clementina Sobieski, the betrothed of the Pretender, from Inspruch, in the Tyrol, where she was detained by the Emperor, Charles the Sixth, at the instance of George the First.

rant's orders, as narrated by the Four Masters. In this year Conor O'Brien, mentioned *ante*, at 1133, led an army to Dublin, and compelled the Danes, there settled, to acknowledge him their chief, soon after which a treaty of peace was concluded at Usneach, between Turlogh O'Connor, King of Connaught, and Murrough O'Melaghlin, King of Tara, in which the O'Melaghlin's submitted, and gave pledges of allegiance for Meath and Teffia.

"1142. Founding of Mellefont"(a).

(a) The still interesting remains of this, one of the earliest Cistercian foundations in Ireland, are situated four miles and a half from Drogheda, where the picturesque little River Mattock divides the Counties of Louth and Meath. It was erected, in the year above mentioned, by Donogh O'Carrol, Prince of Uriel (Louth), and filled by St. Bernard with monks from the Abbey of Clairvaux, in France. In 1157 a memorable assembly, hereinafter alluded to, was held on the consecration of this church, in fifty years after which, the unfortunate Dervorgilla here closed her life, an aged penitent. After the English invasion this establishment, situated as it was, in the marches of the Pale, was taken under the especial protection of the Palatine Hugh de Lacy and the successive English monarchs, and large territorial possessions were annexed to it. In 1322, in order politically to secure its fealty and influence, it was ordained that none should be admitted to make profession in this house, until he had taken an oath that he was of English descent; and the Abbot was not only a peer of the Irish Parliament, but had precedence of other Abbots there. On the dissolution, all its noble possessions were granted to Sir Gerald Moore, afterwards ennobled by the title of Baron of Mellefont, and who was the founder of the line of the Marquesses of Drogheda. For further particulars of Mellefont, see "History of Drogheda," vol. ii. p. 415, &c.

“Conor O'Brien, supreme King of Munster, died in the year 1143, from the Incarnation of our Lord.”

(i. e. in the year 1142, from the birth of Christ). This was the individual who so long contested the sovereignty with Turlough O'Conor. He was buried in Killaloe, and was succeeded, on his death, by Turlough O'Brien, whose contests with the Mac Carthys and Kinsellaghs, in this year, afford a melancholy picture of the consequences of anarchy.

“1143. Murrough O'Melaghlin was driven from his kingdom by Turlough O'Conor, and the sovereignty of Meath given to Conor, the son of Turlough.”

Yet these kings had but two years previously entered into a solemn treaty of peace on the hill of Usneach. The Four Masters relate, that the ambitious and despotic Turlough in this year consigned his own son, Roderic, in chains to a prison, and, although the laity and clergy interceded for him, and the ecclesiastics of Connaught observed a solemn fast to propitiate his liberation, the king was inexorable for one year.

“Gildas Ængus O'Cluman, chief poet of Ireland, died.

“1144. Conor, the son of Turlough O'Conor, King of Meath, was slain.”

The inhabitants of Meath, as might be expected, resented the insult of forcing a monarch upon them, to the exclusion of the old line, and slew him at Ballymoon, whereupon Turlough O'Conor, in a species of political compromise, divided Meath, giving the

western portion to Donogh, the son of the before deposed Murrough O'Melaghlin, and the eastern portion to Tiernan O'Ruarc and Dermot Mac Murrough, moiatively, and as dependencies on the sovereignty of Connaught; he was, however, immediately afterwards, on the people of Meath giving him 400 cows as an eric of atonement for the murder of his son Conor, induced to give the east of Meath to Murrough O'Melaghlin, and the west to Murrough's son. In the same year, Turlough O'Brien devastated Leinster, and in the following such cruel wars are recorded, as raging between the O'Melaghlin and O'Carrols, the O'Conors and O'Ruarc, the Mac Dermots and O'Ruarc, the O'Melaghlin and O'Ruarc, and yet more generally between Munster and Connaught at large, "that Ireland," as the Masters say, "was shaken to its utmost limits."

"1146. From the beginning of the world 6344 years. Tiernan O'Ruarc went to Lough Lurg(a), where he slew as many as were in the island.—Victory at the bridge of Athlone."

This battle, which the Four Masters refer to the following year, was won by the people of Teffia, over Donald, the son of Turlough O'Conor, and the O'Kellys of Hy-Maine.

"1147. Victory over Tiernan O'Ruarc, achieved by the forces of Turlough O'Conor."

(a) Other chroniclers more fully record this transaction: "Tiernan O'Ruarc," say they, "led an army beyond Magh-Ai, to Dunamon and Lough Lurg," i. e. the lake of Moylurg, Lough-Ke, and the island refers to that on which the castle stands.



Turlough was himself, immediately after, defeated by the people of Teffia, while Murtough O'Loughlin devastated Ulster, a province which was, in the following year, yet further wasted by the O'Loughlins, the O'Carrols, and the O'Ruarcs.

"1148. Malachy O'Morgair, Legate of all Ireland, a man whose sanctity was testified by many miracles, died in Christ, at Clarevall."

"He was," say the Four Masters, "the sovereign pastor of Western Europe, the legate of the successor of Peter, the ordainer of bishops and priests, the consecrator of churches and graveyards; and, after he had perfected the ecclesiastical duties in Ireland, after he had given presents and food to the mighty and the poor, after he had restored and roofed the churches and monasteries of Ireland, after he had established rules of discipline and morality in that country, after fourteen years' enjoyment of the primacy, in the fifty-fourth year of his age, he gave back his spirit to heaven, and was buried in the monastery of St. Bernard, at Clarevall, in France."

"The Abbey of Boyle was founded in this year; the year from the Incarnation of our Lord 1148."

In 1149, the O'Loughlins again devastated Ulster, as did the O'Carrols Bregia, and the O'Briens Connaught.

"1150. Maurice O'Duffy, Archbishop of Connaught, died in Christ."

The title of Archbishop is here anticipated by two

years; this prelate is, however, yet more dignified in the remembrance of other annalists, who write, that when he died at Cong, Ireland died with him.

“ Donald, the son of the son of Donald O’Conor, was slain at the battle of Fiadamogan”(a).

In this year the Four Masters further record an ecclesiastical visitation of Kinel-Eogan (the County Tyrone), by Flaherty O’Brolchain, as successor of Columb-kille, in the see of Derry, on which occasion he received as his dues, a horse from each chieftain, a cow from every two victuallers, a cow from every three householders, and another from every four of the common people, while the King of Ireland bestowed upon him twenty heifers, a gold ring of five ounces weight, his own horse and dress. Of these rings, it may be here mentioned, that many have been discovered through the country, and some of admirable workmanship; they are of various sizes, and are graduated regularly from half a penny-weight to a pound, and upwards; those most commonly discovered here are, however, of bronze, but sometimes of jet and stone; and, from the very numerous specimens preserved in the Museum of the Royal Irish Academy, it would appear they were used as of that very ancient currency called ring-money, most pro-

(a) This place, *alias* Fiodh-Monach, was the ancient name of the district now called Kilbride, in the barony of Ballintobber, County Roscommon. Several burial mounts and raths, some with a treble fosse, are still distinguishable over its surface

bably introduced by the Phœnicians, the merchants of the old world, and which Mr. Wilkinson shews were also of circulation amongst the Egyptians. In 1004; Brian Boroimhe is stated to have laid on the altar of the cathedral of Armagh, in which he was afterwards buried, a ring of gold, weighing twenty ounces. Such works of art, and others yet more elaborate, as golden crowns, croziers, gorgets, collars, fibulæ, clasps, shrines for the relics of saints, cases for the Gospels, and like ornaments, for civil and religious purposes, are often mentioned in the Annals, and many are in the cabinets of the curious.

“1151. A foray led out by Turlough.—Battle of Moinmore.”

Turlough O’Conor, here intended, had led out the forces of Connaught, and was aided, in this incursion into Munster, by Diarmid Mac Murrough, O’Melaghlin, and Tiernan O’Ruarc, with the forces of their respective territories; the great object of these confederate chiefs was to support Diarmid, the son of Cormac Mac Carthy, against the O’Briens; that sept gave them battle on Moin-More, i. e. the great bog of Cork, and were utterly defeated, with the loss of a vast number of their force, amongst whom were Murtough, son of Conor O’Brien, King of Thomond, and various other chiefs, enumerated in the Annals of Inisfallen. “Their loss,” say some native historians, “was so great, that, until the sands of the sea, and stars of heaven, be numbered, it will

not be calculated how many nobles, chiefs, and gentlemen of Munster there fell."

"The holy Cardinal, John Paparo, came to Ireland, bringing with him four palls."

The distribution of these archiepiscopal investments, however, did not take place until the following year, when a synod was convened at Kells, full particulars of which may be seen in the "*Memoirs of the Archbishops of Dublin*," p. 44, &c. The Cardinal presided, and there gave the four palls to Armagh, Cashel, Dublin, and Tuam, respectively, and, at the same time, fixed what sees should be respectively assigned to the four metropolitans.

"1152. Dervorgilla, the wife of Tiernan O'Ruarc, was taken away by Diarmid Mac Murrough,"

"with her dower and female ornaments," add the Four Masters. She was carried off, according to Giraldus, from the residence of her husband, in an island of Lough Ennel, near Mullingar, and while that chieftain was absent on a pilgrimage to Lough Dearg. This was the elopement which led on, as will be seen hereafter, the English invasion.

"Cathal, styled of 'the little horse,' son of Turlough [O'Connor], was slain by the people of Calrigia(a), in Coran.

"1153. Murrough O'Melaghlin, King of Meath, dies."

This is the Murrough mentioned *ante, ad ann.* 1137;

(a) There were districts of this name both in the Counties of Sligo and Mayo.

he claimed to be King "*de jure*" of Ireland, and is so designated in the narrative of the Four Masters; his government is, however, here more correctly limited to Meath. He died on a pilgrimage in Derry, when his son, Maolsechnall, succeeded to his contested right.

"Flaherty O'Cananan, King of Kinel-Conell [Tyrconnel], perished at sea, with his wife, the daughter of Turlough O'Conor. In the same year died also St. Bernard(*a*), Abbot of Clarevall.—David, son of Malcolm, King of Albania and Britain [i. e. David the First, of Scotland], died. Turlough O'Brien was expelled by Turlough O'Conor, and he went to the North."

After this dethronement, Turlough O'Conor divided Munster between Thady, the son of Turlough

(*a*) Of this remarkable personage, his biographers say, that, in this Abbey of his retreat, his authority was greater than if he had occupied the throne of St. Peter: he was consulted as an oracle; his censures were regarded with awe in the remotest parts of Europe; and the Cistercians, by his example, became so powerful, that he lived to see the establishment of 160 convents which acknowledged him as their head. Having used his earliest and best exertions for the suppression of heretical opinions and restoring religious peace to Christendom, he directed his influence to promote the second crusade against the Saracens, and by his eloquence engaged in that romantic expedition Lewis the Seventh of France, and the Emperor, Conrad; but the enterprise, which he preached and organized, and whose success he too confidently professed to predict, proved unfortunate, and the Abbot, possibly affected by this disappointed hope, did certainly not long survive the disastrous expedition, and died, as above mentioned, in the house of his foundation.

O'Brien, and Diarmid, the son of Cormac, the son of Murrough Mac Carthy. Thady, the new prince of his creation, joined, as might be expected, his adherents with those of Turlough, and the confederates invaded West Connaught, when they obtained

“The victory of Fordrum(*a*),”

in which the Four Masters record the deaths of several of the O'Conors, O'Bernes, and O'Dowds; but a reaction of the adherents of the banished Turlough O'Brien having put the favourite of O'Connor in their power, he, the said

“Thady O'Brien was deprived of his sight; Turlough O'Brien came again into Munster in the year of the Incarnation of our Lord 1153;

in which year the Four Masters record the destruction of the wattle bridge of Athlone, by the son of Murrough O'Melaghlin, and the re-construction of that of Athleague, by Turlough O'Connor; they also add, that in this year the unfortunate Dervorgilla forsook her seducer and returned to her husband.

“1154. Diarmid O'Connor Kerry dies.”

He was the head of the Kerry line of this family.

“Battle of Bonnamrach.”

This notice would seem to associate with Bunratty, as the Four Masters record, predatory excursions of the people of Desmond on those of Dalcassia, and

(*a*) This locality cannot be precisely identified.

*vice versa*. The same Annalists also relate a remarkable sea fight of the time, Turlough O'Connor having, as they say, led a fleet by sea round Ireland, towards the north, and, having appointed Cosnamhach O'Dowda its commander, devastated Tyrconnel and Inishowen, whereupon the inhabitants of these districts, with the aid of Murtough, the son of Niall O'Loughlin, hired a fleet of foreigners, who, sailing from Aran, Cantyre, and Man, and the shores of Scotland, to Inishowen, and confronting the forces of Connaught, a momentous sea fight ensued, and was, say the Masters, so obstinately waged between them, that they fought from the first to the ninth hour of the day, and many of the Connaught people and their admiral were slain by the foreigners; yet they lost the day, and were themselves defeated with far greater loss, and "the teeth of their commander were pulled out." In retaliation for this visitation Murtough O'Loughlin penetrated Connaught, wasting Magh-Ai and Moylurg, while engagements of a minor, but no less hostile nature, are recorded as occurring between Turlough O'Connor and the people of Meath; between the people of Ossory and the O'Kinselaghs; those of Leinster and the O'Ruarcs; those of Desmond and the Dalcassians; while the country appears to have been no less proscribed in the visitation of a grievous mortality of cattle. The closing passage of this year's chronicle in the Annals of Boyle is

“Thady O’Brien dies.”

In those of the Four Masters the notice of the events of that year is closed by one more pregnant with impending and momentous consequences: “Henry the Second obtains the empire of the Saxons, on the 27th of October.” Amidst the dissensions and afflictions of Ireland, Henry the Second was crowned King of England, “with great joy and applause of the people.” In Ireland no king was so acknowledged: the sovereignty, such as it has been shewn there, was vested for six centuries in the Hy-Niall dynasty; from them it passed to the O’Briens, and thence to the O’Conors; it was obtained, however, with much contest, and held with still greater jealousy, so that, at this time, it was little more than titular, and the whole island virtually divided among chieftains, who, acknowledging no superior, looked, each with selfish ambition, to the future acquirement of a more substantial supremacy. The family of O’Neill exercised an hereditary jurisdiction over the greater part of Ulster. Munster was divided between the descendants of the before-mentioned Brian Boromhe and the warlike sept of the Mac Carthys. Even in Connaught the O’Conors were but partially acknowledged, while Tiernan O’Ruarc, Prince of Brefsny, governed the now called County of Leitrim, and the adjacent districts. Another branch of the O’Neills ruled Meath, and in Leinster Diarmid Mac Murrough, with the title of King, had also under his authority



the principalities of Ossory and Desies, with the fealty and adherence of such of the Ostmen, as were still settled in Dublin and Waterford. "Society being thus broken up into adverse and desperate septs, rebellion was a thing of speculation; and one local insurrection was no sooner quelled, than another burst out, with increased fury, in a remote district. Frequent wars diminished the respect which men entertained for religion, and national anarchy prevented that ecclesiastical superintendence, which could alone have staid the progress of immorality. Released from every wholesome restraint, the natives adopted the sacrilegious practices, which in the Ostmen had excited their early horror; and neither the solemn aspect of the abodes of piety, nor the hallowed associations of the altar, awed them into forbearance or awakened their remorse; the monastery and the church fell beneath their hostile arms; the monk and the priest fled their presence, and the country witnessed the deplorable spectacle of Christian soldiers enriching themselves with the spoils of the recluse, and the furniture of God's temple." So writes an anonymous historian of Ireland, and the picture is too truly drawn. A country, so circumstanced, was an object of easy acquisition to any foreign nation that might attempt the adventure, and to the English monarch, more than to any other, was it peculiarly desirable. Even in the hour of his accession its importance was brought before his eyes, and its

invasion recommended as but an assertion of right; traditions of the most distant times were credulously recounted to vindicate the project. An alleged grant from Gurguntius, a remote King of Britain, to a party of emigrants from Spain (evidently based on the Milesian colonization), was urged as title incontrovertible, not only of immemorial right of sovereignty over Ireland, but of the actual exercise of that right; it is even put forward, in testimony thereof, by Giraldus, the historian of the first years after the English invasion. Again it was relied, that an Irish King, Mac Gilla Murrough, with all his petty princes, lords, and captains, being summoned to the court, which the renowned King Arthur convened at Caerleon, in A. D. 519, there offered their homage, and attended as liegemen; and a yet further manifest recognition of the right was construed out of the Confessor's Law, where, in relating the rights and appendages, or dependencies of the Crown of England, Ireland is expressly named as one; and lastly, as if to arouse at this, the first moment of intercourse, the worst excitements of national animosity, it was averred, that the Irish had addicted themselves to such a commerce of English slaves, carrying them off from the opposite shores, more especially from Bristol, and selling them to foreigners, that Henry would, in the sight of heaven, be justified in the most severe measures of retribution.

The English king was, however, too cautious to rely implicitly on these feeble suggestions of right,

and resolved to invest himself with an authority that, if attainable, was then of the highest sanction, and most respected in Europe—the Pope's. Happily for his project an Englishman, Adrian the Fourth, just then filled the Papal chair; to him, therefore, Henry made an early appeal, and, on an exaggerated representation of the condition of Ireland, he, in the year 1155, obtained the extraordinary Bull, in which, after a recital that Ireland, as well as all the other islands which the light of Christ had shone upon and which had received the evidences of the Christian faith, did of right belong to the Church of St. Peter, and that King Henry had signified to his Holiness his intention to enter this island, with the design of subduing its people to the laws, extirpating the weeds of vice thereout, assessing Peter's pence, and preserving ecclesiastical jurisdiction, the Pontiff affected to authorize its subjugation, for the glory of God, and salvation of its people, expressing, at the same time, a hope, that the natives would receive the King with honour, and respect him as their Lord, and he concludes with a still more impressive, and a more honourable instruction to the royal invader. "If," he adds, "you are minded to effectuate your purpose, make it your study to inform that nation with good precepts, and do this as well by your own exertions, as by those of whomsoever you may depute, as fitted for such a design by their doctrine, conversation, and life; so that the Church may be glorified thereby, and the religion of Christ planted

and increased, and whatever pertains to the honour of God, and safety of souls, may be so perfected, as that you will deserve to obtain from that God an accumulation of eternal rewards, and must succeed in acquiring on earth a glorious fame for ages." It is by many considered incredible, that the Pope could have listened to, much less have so thoroughly adopted the suggestions of Ireland's alleged infidelity, as to recite them, to a certain extent, in the commencement of this Bull, more especially when he must have known, that but three years previously the palls had been sent to that country, conferred upon natives of the highest sanctity and reverence, and, in a synod crowded with Irish bishops and ecclesiastics, of the most unblemished character. Adrian might, however, have been the more disposed to credit the statement of King Henry, as it appears that in his youth he had made a painful pilgrimage into Norway, where, in the progress of a missionary's intercourse, he possibly received equally false impressions, as to the character of the Irish nation, from a people who had for ages been their tyrants and oppressors. The love of England, his native country, was likely also to have deeply biassed his opinions, and such a motive was confidently assigned by Matthew of Westminster, strongly asserted by Donall O'Neill, and the Irish chieftains, in their letters to Pope John the Twenty-second, and subsequently suggested and accredited by Cardinal Pole in A.D. 1554.

Soon after receiving this high sanction, Henry, finding himself at peace with all his neighbours, summoned a council of his nobles at Winchester, the chief object for whose consideration was to deliberate on the conquest of Ireland, which he then, it is thought, designed to bestow on his brother William; the expedition was, however, for that time postponed, in accordance with the wishes of his mother, the empress Maud. The immediate concerns of England soon afterwards more earnestly occupied his attention. To these objects succeeded the more distracting attempts of his brother, Geoffrey, on the provinces of Anjou and Maine; the incursions of the Welch next called him into active hostilities; his acquisitions of Nantz and Brittany, and invasion of Toulouse, still further engrossed his thoughts; and last, and yet more than all the others, his long contests with the inflexible Becket, and his consequent embarrassing differences with the Pope, suspended for some years his designs upon Ireland; and, until opportunity favoured the expedition, he prudently made no public announcement of a grant, that, from its harsh recitals, might but have prejudiced the Irish against him, while he trusted the quiet submission of their petty kings and nobles would one day constitute him their sovereign, as by alliance and compact, rather than by conquest.

Returning, therefore, to the course of the Annals.

“1155. Maolsechnall, the son of Murrough O'Maolsechnall, King of Meath, dies.”

He died in the thirtieth year of his age, at Derry, by poison, as the Four Masters state.

“ Hugh O’Hara(*a*), King of Luigne, died.—Encounter of the fighting men of Fingal.”

In this year also, according to the Four Masters, Murrough, son of Niall O’Loughlin, devastated Meath, while Tiernan O’Ruarc, after a successful invasion of the country of O’Carrol, seized its chief, when he had come, with but a small retinue, to meet him in peace at Kells, and imprisoned him on an island of Lough Shillen, where he remained for a fortnight, until rescued by the O’Reillys, who slew the guards, and restored him to his principality; soon after which a wooden bridge, that Turlough O’Conor had two years previously erected over the Shannon, at Athlone, with the intention of facilitating his invasions of Meath, was destroyed, as was the citadel of that town a second time by O’Melaghlin.

“ 1156. Victory of Cuill-chepan(*b*); Turlough O’Conor, King of Connaught and Meath, and Dublin, and of the southern half of Ireland, the hero of his country, died, in the year of our Lord’s Incarnation, 1156. From the beginning of the world, 6,355 years.”

(*a*) Any illustration of this ancient family, from this compiler’s manuscripts, is here declined, as it is understood, that a work, to which its illustration will more legitimately apply, is about to be published.

(*b*) Probably Kill-carpre, in the territory of Hy-Fiachra, on the Moy, County Mayo, where St. Carpre founded an Abbey in 500.

Turlough died in the sixty-eighth year of his age, and was buried, as he had directed, in Clonmacnois, near the altar of Ciaran, after he had distributed gold and silver, cattle and horses, amongst the clergy of Ireland generally. The supreme sovereignty thereupon passed to Murtough O'Loughlin, while Roderic, the son of Turlough, succeeded to the government of Connaught. His first act was to possess himself of the persons of his three brothers, respectively styled, "Brian of Brefny, Brian of Luigne, and Murtough of Munster," when, by his order,

"Brian, of Brefny, was deprived of his sight.—Teigue, the spoiler, King of Teffia, died."

Roderic was not satisfied with the limits of a province; he appears to have at once advanced his claim for supremacy, a claim which Turlough O'Brien and his Dalcassians peaceably admitted, by delivery of hostages, while the people of Ulster openly rebelled against King Murtough; but their insurrection was suppressed, and Leinster and Meath were left at Roderic's absolute disposal. The conduct of Diarmit Mac Carthy, King of South Munster, was an eloquent testimony to the unsettled insubordination of the times, for though he too gave hostages to Roderic O'Connor, they were delivered subject to a condition, that they should be restored if King Murtough were to come to his assistance. On the other hand, Diarmit Mac Murrough, who had given hostages to the

latter prince, and was supported by him, not only compelled the people of Leinster to submit to his oppression, but also devastated the adjacent district of Meath, and vanquished Tiernan O'Ruarc in battle; injuries which Roderic, the patron of O'Ruarc, was not slow in avenging on such of the people of Teffia, as had espoused the cause of Diarmit. The Four Masters record such an intensity of cold in this year, that King Roderic transported his ships over the ice, from the Galway shores of the Shannon, to Randon, i. e. St. John's, near Athlone; and an incredible number of birds perished from the severity of the weather.

“1157. Cuulad O'Candelban was slain.”

A petty prince, whom the Four Masters describe as very learned, very munificent, a conspicuous warrior, a shining light, a victim of treachery and injustice, slain in contempt of the prayers of laity and clergy, by Donough, the son of Donough O'Melaghlin, King of Meath—“Cursed was the spot on which that crime was perpetrated.”

“Ferral O'Ruarc was slain.—Consecration of the church of Drogheda”(a).

The assembly, collected for this object and some others of a political tendency, was convened by King Mur-

(a) This deeply interesting locality is the subject of a separate history, in two volumes, by the compiler of the present work; but the church, alluded to in this annal, was that of Mellefont, herein-before noticed.



tough O'Loughlin, and attended by Tiernan O'Ruarc, O'Carrol of Uriel, with their respective adherents, Christian, Bishop of Lismore, as the Pope's legate, assisted by the Primate, and seventeen other prelates. On the occasion of the consecration of the church, various offerings were made for its endowment by the attending princes and nobles: the King gave 120 oxen, sixty ounces of gold, and a townland near Drogheda, to God and the Church, for the health of his soul, as did O'Carrol sixty other ounces of gold. This work of piety having been concluded, the afore-said Donough O'Melaghlin was, for the murder he had so committed, excommunicated by the ecclesiastics, and deposed from the kingdom of Meath by the princes, who substituted his brother Diarmid in the government of that province.

“ Inis-Enag(a) was devastated by Roderic O'Conor.”

“ He went to Tyrone,” say the Four Masters, “ burned Inis-Enag, cut down their orchards, and devastated the country to the woods of Céannachta (the present barony of Keenaght); he also led a fleet over the Shannon, to which none like had been previously seen, either in regard to the number or the size of the ships.”

(a) Inis-Eonois, the place here intended, is an island in Lough Erne, where an Abbey was founded in the early ages of the Church, of which St. Constans died Abbot, in 777. His bones were translated into a shrine, by Matthew, Bishop of Clogher, in 1308.

“ Cuulad, the son of Donsleve, King of Ulster, dies.”

He died on a pilgrimage to Downpatrick, and was there buried.

“ 1158. From the beginning of the world 6,357 years.—Donat O’Lonargan, Archbishop of Munster, died.”

He was the first Archbishop of Cashel, after the distribution of the palls by Cardinal Paparo.

“ The victory of Atha-Maigne(*a*) was won by Diarmit [O’Melaghlin], and by Tiernan [O’Ruarc], over Donough O’Melaghlin.”

The people of Teffia, in the present County of Westmeath, were the chief sufferers on this occasion; they had espoused the cause of the excommunicated Donough, against his brother, then the King recognized by the assembly of 1157.

“ Connor, the son of Donald O’Brien, deprived of his sight,”

by Turlough O’Brien, in contempt of the clergy and laity of Munster. The frequency of this infliction is attributable to the disqualification for government, which it thus cruelly interposed.

“ Victory of Gur(*b*).—Slaughter of the ecclesiastics of Connaught.”

(*a*) Atha-Maigne, is considered by Colgan to signify the ford of the Inny, and seems identified in the name of the parish of Maine, north of the picturesque scenery of Derrivaragh, in the County Westmeath.

(*b*) Gur is most probably identical with Lough-Gur, in the County Limerick, a place of much ancient note, and which still

This notice is more fully detailed by the Four Masters. A synod of the clergy, it appears, was convened in Meath, "where were twenty-five bishops, with the Pope's legate, ordaining rules of discipline and morality;" on which occasion they raised Derry to the rank of an episcopal see, and prescribed, that its Abbot should have precedence of other Abbots of Ireland. The bishops and clergy of Connaught, however, who came to that council, were pillaged and beaten as they passed from Clonmacnois, and two of their suite were slain by the soldiers of Diarmid O'Melaghlin, even by the soldiers of him who had been, by their means, recently raised to the government of Meath.

"Victory of Muigh-Bachi, where were slain Donough, the son of Roderic, the son of Hugh [O'Conor], and Timothy O'Maolbrenan."

This victory, the Four Masters relate, was won by the people of Teffia, over the O'Conors, who had previously invaded their homes.

"1159. Diarmid, the son of Teigue, the son of Maolruana, King of Moylurg, died.—Victory of Atha-Firdee(a),

exhibits some interesting remains of a circular stone temple, described by Miss Beaufort, in her "Essay on the Architecture and Antiquities of Ireland."

(a) Atha-Firdee, *contractive* Ardee, is a small but neat town, giving name to a barony in the southern part of the County Louth, and the title of Baron to the noble family of Brabazon. It was also a borough in the time of the Irish Parliament, the patronage being then in the Ruxton family, who are still proprietors

where fell Gilla Crist, the son of Diarmit, King of Moylurg; and Murtough, the son of Teigue, the son of Maolru-

here. It was at the ford of the river, which runs through this town, that Cucullin is said to have killed Ferdia, a chieftain of the country, who gave his name to the pass and stream. In 1127, Conor Mac Loughlin, and his cavalry, obtained a victory here over the cavalry of Tiernan O'Ruarc. In 1207, Roger de Pipard, having obtained a grant of the surrounding tract, founded an hospital here for Cross-bearers following the rule of St. Augustin, which he liberally endowed with advowsons, lands, and rights of fishery. About the same time, he appears to have erected a strong castle in the town. In four years afterwards, the above hospital had a charter from the Archbishop of Armagh, confirmatory of its possessions. In 1312, the King granted to Richard de Tuyt, the castle of Ardee, with the manor of Maundevilleston, as appurtenant to said castle, to hold during pleasure. In five years afterwards, John de Bermingham, for his services against Robert Bruce, who had previously wasted and burned the town, had a grant of the Barony of Ardee, to him and his heirs for ever; and in 1340, King Edward the Third confirmed the charters of the friary of Cross-bearers here. The same monarch, in 1363, granted a fair to the town, while Richard the Second, in 1380, empowered the corporation to levy certain tolls, during the ten ensuing years, for its uses, which grant was renewed by His Majesty's successors, as for murage and paviage. In 1413, Sir John Stanley, ancestor of the Earls of Derby, and then Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, died in this town. In 1422, the commons of Louth, being assembled at Ardee, granted a subsidy of £40 to the Lord Justice, for his expenses in defending that county against "the Irish enemy." In 1492, the Primate held a provincial synod here; while that convened in 1504, by the Primate Octavian, to meet at Drogheda, was, on account of the plague then raging there, removed thither, where it was also broken up, in consequence of the advance of the contagion. In 1538, O'Neill, with his adherents, invading the English pale, burned Ardee; and in

ana, and Diarmid O'Concanen, and many other nobles and private individuals."

This battle was fought under the following circumstances: Murtough O'Loughlin opened a campaign

1560, several detachments were sent hither, to keep the northerns in awe. In this year the town appears to have returned its first members to Parliament, a privilege which it continued to enjoy until the Union. In 1599, when Tyrone encamped in a strong position, between Dundalk and Newry, near the Faughart hill, detachments were stationed at Ardee and other places, to check his advance into the Pale. In 1612, King James granted, by letters patent, to Sir Garret Moore, the ancestor of the Marquesses of Drogheda (*inter alia*), the friary of the Cross-bearers of Ardee with its precincts, and sundry possessions, as described in the record. By an inquisition of 1635, it was found, that Ardee was an ancient borough, and that a custom existed there, from time out of memory, that premises within said borough were devisable by the last will of their proprietors. During the civil war of 1641 and 1642, this town was the scene of many memorable events. In 1666, John Ruxton passed patent for (*inter alia*) 250 acres in Ardee, with the Carmelite friary, and certain houses and gardens in the town. In 1668, Theobald Earl of Carlingford had a grant of (*inter alia*) "the great castle of Ardee, now a sessions' house," one mill, and several parcels, gardens, and tenements, in and about Ardee. In March, 1687, King James the Second granted one of his subsequently repudiated charters to this town, and he afterwards passed some days here in his last unfortunate campaign; the governing charter was granted by Queen Anne, in 1713. A portion of the old Abbey is incorporated in the present church; there are also remains of two ancient castles, which once existed here; while in the immediate vicinity is a fine mount, encompassed by a double ditch, the elevation and ground plan of which are sketched by Wright, in his "*Louthiana*."

against Diarmid O'Melaghlin, whom he banished to Connaught, when King Roderic, having concluded a league with Tiernan O'Ruarc, which was "confirmed by sureties, and vows upon the relics of saints," threw a bridge of wattles across the Shannon, at Athlone, with the object of invading Meath; Donough O'Melaghlin, however, gave him battle on the bank of the river, and Hugh, the eldest son of Roderic, was there mortally wounded. The King of Connaught, more incensed to vengeance by this disaster, proceeded with recruited forces, through the heart of the country, to Ardee, where he encountered Murtough O'Loughlin, and was again defeated, with great slaughter as above; the victor following up his success, by the devastation of Munster, Connaught, and the country of Tiernan O'Ruarc. In the following year his enemy of Meath died as recorded in the Annals.

"1160. Donagh, the son of Donald (the 'cheerful') O'Melaghlin, King of Meath, was slain,"

by, as appears from the Four Masters, the chieftain of Delvin and his sons, on account of his tyranny and crimes.

"Bruodar, the son of Turcall, King of Dublin, was slain."

In the same year, after the death of this Danish prince, a rebellious spirit, having manifested itself in Ulster against Murtough, was suppressed by him, with great slaughter and devastation of that province, when King Roderic, taking advantage of his

absence in the North, invaded Meath, and established Diarmid O'Melaghlin in its government; soon after which these rival princes met at Easroa, near Ballyshannon, to arrange a treaty, but the attempt was ineffective, and they separated, "without peace, without truce:" but in the ensuing year, after Roderic had exacted hostages over Meath, and Murtough had led a harassing expedition against the O'Briens, the negociation was renewed with somewhat better success, a treaty being closed on the basis of a mutual interchange of territory and authority, and a classification of subject principalities. The island was not, however, destined for general peace; the Four Masters record, in this latter year, two victories obtained by the people of Thomond over those of Desmond, and it is by others confidently asserted that, by reason of the calamitous divisions and jealousies amongst the native princes, the Ostmen of Dublin were inspired with a hope of regaining that dominant power, which they had lost upwards of a century before. The notices in the Annals of Boyle at this year are strictly local.

"1161. Hugh O'Hoisin, Archbishop of Connaught, died. The Abbey of Boyle was founded in this year, near Boyle. From the beginning of the world 6,360 years; it was first opened at Grellech-dinach, secondly at Drum-conaind, third at Bunfinni, and fourth at Boyle. In the first place Peter O'Mordha was its first Abbot; in the second Hugh O'Mac cain, for two years; after him Maurice [O'Duffy], who kept it, in the same place, for six years, and at Bunfinni for two



*View of Bridge from the side of the C. & D. R.*







and a half, but closed his abbacy in Boyle, where he presided during thirteen years and a half. The Castle of Tuam(a) was built by Roderic O'Conor."

(a) Tuam, in the County Galway, has been the chosen site of an abbey, erected in the earliest era of the Irish Christian Church; it was soon afterwards elevated to be the seat of a bishopric, founded by St. Jarlath, who died in the middle of the sixth century; his bones were discovered long after his decease, and, having been enclosed in a reliquary, were deposited in a church built on the occasion, and hence called the "Church of the Shrine." The native annalists record many of his successors in the see. In 1134, the town was wasted by O'Brien and his Dalcassians, and within the same century it suffered three times by fire, viz., in 1137, 1155, and 1164. About the year 1140, Turlough O'Conor, then King of Ireland, founded another religious house here, which he dedicated to St. John the Baptist; and, in 1161, his son, King Roderic, constructed the pile above alluded to, and which was popularly styled "the wonderful castle," by reason of its form and strength. In eleven years afterwards the latter prince held a provincial synod here, over which Catholicus O'Duffy, the second Archbishop of Tuam, presided, and on which occasion three additional churches were consecrated here. In 1177, Milo de Cogan made the memorable approach to this town, which will be found fully noticed *post, ad ann.* About the year 1230, the Præmonstratensian Abbey was dedicated here to the Holy Trinity, by one of the family of De Burgo, but, in 1244, the houses and churches of the town were destroyed by fire. An ecclesiastical return of 1290 states the manors then annexed to this see to be Tuam, Meylough, Kilmelcon, Cong, Enaghdon, and Kilmeen. In 1295, the Archbishop of Tuam appears to have been first summoned to the Irish Parliament, as were his successors from that time. In 1384, when, on the death of Archbishop Gregory, the temporalities of the diocese were, by the royal prerogative, seized into the hands of the Crown, the Escheator returned, that nothing was available to the Exchequer, "by reason

" 1162. Cosnave O'Dowda(a) was slain."

This year is triumphantly noticed in the Irish Annals, as that in which St. Laurence O'Toole, who had been theretofore Abbot of St. Kevin's, of Glenda-

of the dangers of the roads between the English and the Irish, and nobody being hardy enough to collect the rents." On the Dissolution, the above monastery of St. John was, with its possessions, granted to the Earl of Clanrickard in fee, as were those of the Holy Trinity, soon afterwards, to the Corporation of Galway. In 1595 Queen Elizabeth appointed Doctor Nehemiah Donnellan to this archbishopric, "he being," as the patent states, "very fit to communicate with the people in their mother tongue, and a very meet instrument to retain and instruct them in duty and religion, for that he had also taken great pains in translating and putting to the press, the Communion Book and New Testament, in the Irish language." In the time of his successor, Archbishop William O'Donnel, the town obtained its first and governing Charter of incorporation, prescribing its constituency, and granting it privilege of Parliamentary representation. In February, 1687, King James the Second granted one of his charters to this borough, wherein he named Peter Lally sovereign, and nineteen burgesses, amongst whom were Edward Lord Ath-enry, Michael, John, and Ignatius Browne, Ambrose and John Bodkin, Charles Daly, Pierce Kirwan, &c. The cathedral of the Established Church is a neat structure, and includes a portion of the original edifice, with a very rich circular arch, in which appears combined a great variety of ornamented moulding; it rests at each side on six columns of rude workmanship. The Roman Catholic cathedral is one of the most beautiful ecclesiastical edifices in the country.

(a) As the achievements and pedigree of this sept are fully illustrated in a recent publication of the Irish Archaeological Society, any compilation from the genealogical MSS. of the author of this work is declined.

lough, received solemn consecration from Gelasius, the Archbishop of Armagh, in the Cathedral of Christ Church, Dublin, "many bishops being present, and the people returning thanks to God;" the event is the more remarkable in the Church History of Ireland, as from this period the usage of consecrating Irish bishops by the Archbishop of Canterbury, which had been partially introduced in the Danish cities of this country, ceased to be asserted. Archbishop Laurence, who will be found a very prominent character in the history of these times, received his early education in the monastic establishments of Glendalough, from the founders of which he was descended, and where his active virtues were long known and revered. His charity is particularly extolled during a season of uncommon scarcity, which miserably afflicted that part of the country for four successive years. In this same year (1162) occurred the synod of Clane, which was attended by twenty-six bishops, and many other ecclesiastics; but all such well-intended measures for the regeneration of the country were counteracted by the disorders of war, the turbulence of septs, and the ambition of chieftains. The feuds between the people of Desmond and Thomond continued unabated; Murtough O'Loughlin devastated the vicinity of Dublin, and compelled the Danes to pay him a tribute of 140 ounces of gold. Tiernan O'Ruarc was defeated in an attempt on Carbury, and Diarmid O'Melaghlin over-ran Brefny in his absence.

"1163. Niall, the son of Murtough, the son of the son of Loughlin, was taken by the people of Hy-Maine, and his followers were slain."

He had gone, say the Four Masters, contrary to good faith, through Ulster, and into Meath, committing many injuries to both the laity and the clergy; he afterwards passed through Athlone into Connaught, with a force of 1200 men, exacting tribute from the people of Hy-Maine, until Connor O'Kelly and his sept took him, as in ambush, and slew almost all his followers. Niall was himself taken prisoner, but generously sent back to his home. In this same year Diarmid O'Melaghlin was driven from a large part of his kingdom by the people of Meath. At this time also a council was held at Clane, wherein it was decreed, "that none should, for the time to come, be admitted readers in divinity, but such as had been students in the University of Armagh."

"1164. Amlaf, the son of Gildas Kevin O'Kennedy [was deprived of his sight]."

He was a chief of Ormond, as shewn by the Four Masters, and the perpetrator of the atrocity was Turlough O'Brien. In this year, according to the Annals of Inisfallen, the scenery of Killarney was polluted, by the sanguinary contests of the Mac Carthys with the people of Desmond.

"1165. Turlough O'Brien went on a pilgrimage, and his son reigned in Munster; Donald, the son of Gilla Pha-

druic(a), King of Ossory, was slain [by the O'Mores of Leix]. Magnus O'Canannan, chief of Tyrconnel, dies; Gilla Crist O'Maolbrenan and Mccrath O'Connor of Kerry, die."

In this year great feuds and mutual devastations occurred between the people of Meath and those of Brefny, subsequently to which Roderic O'Connor despoiled Carberry, and led his forces into Desmond against the Mac Carthys, but they, coming to his camp, averted his hostility by a timely submission. Much blood was also shed in contests between Murtough O'Loughlin and his own subjects, which Gelasius passed the greater part of the year in endeavouring to reconcile.

"1166. Turlough O'Brien reigned again. An army led by Roderic O'Connor to Dublin, when the foreigners of that

(a) The Bardic genealogists deduce the lineage of this, the Fitz Patrick sept, from Heremon. The earliest historic notice relates, that Mac Gilla Phadruic, King of Ossory, in 1014, opposed the return of Donough, son of Brian Boroimhe, with his harassed troops, after the victory of Clontarf. In the records of the middle ages, the chiefs of this house are strongly projected in the civil and ecclesiastical history of their country. In 1541, Brian Mac Gilla Phadruic was created Baron of Castletown. Brian Fitz Patrick, Baron of Upper Ossory, was one of the confederate Catholics in the proceedings at Kilkenny; his heir male sat amongst the Peers in King James's Parliament of 1689; while Thady Fitz Patrick, in the same session, represented the borough of Maryborough in the commons, and was deputy lieutenant for the Queen's County. The last notice that can be here retained is, that James Fitz Patrick, a gallant officer of this sept, after the Revolution, betook himself to Spain, where he distinguished himself in the army, and was killed at the siege of Oran, in 1732.

city did homage to him, thence he advanced to Drogheda, until Donogh O'Carrol and the people of Uriel did him homage; afterwards to Leinster, until he carried off captives with him from the son of Murrough, on account of his conduct to the O'Kinselaghs. Eochaid, the son of the son of Dunsleve, King of Ulidia, was deprived of his sight by Murtough, the son of the son of Loughlin; Murtough, the son of Niall, the son of the son of Loughlin, King of Ireland, was slain,"

at Letterluin, near the Fews mountains, by Donogh O'Carrol of Uriel, and his sept; he is extolled by the Four Masters as the light of western Europe, a hero who, having been victorious in many battles, was never beaten in any but this. Immediately on his decease, Roderic O'Conor put forward his claim, with more confidence, to the supremacy, and to support his pretensions thereto, made a vigorous circuit of such provinces as were most likely to contest this claim. At Ballyshannon he obtained hostages, and a recognition of his authority from the O'Donnells; at Dublin he was more fully acknowledged by the foreigners than any other king had ever been; and in Drogheda, O'Carrol and his people of Uriel gave him sufficient hostages. Scarcely had he obtained these and other recognitions of his power, and reduced some other petty chieftains to obedience, than he was called upon by O'Ruarc, his ancient ally, to avenge his injured honour against Diarmit Mac Murrough; and Roderic, whose exertions had been latterly controlled by the treaty between him and Murtough O'Loughlin, was now more actively

stimulated to aid his friend against one, who, in all the contests of his house for the sovereignty, had naturally attached himself to Murtough, by whose power he had been hitherto protected from all his enemies, and on whose decease he was exposed to all their attacks. In vain did Diarmid appeal to his chiefs and subjects in this critical conjuncture, they not only refused to fight for him, but openly renounced any allegiance to him. In vain did he endeavour to conciliate the good opinion of the clergy by founding and endowing abbeys; even their influence failed to recal his indignant subjects, while his royal enemy, having traversed Leinster, where O'Fallon and O'Conor (Offaley) gave him tribute, having confirmed the division of Munster between O'Brien and Mac Carthy, and having subsequently received hostages from the O'Kinselaghs, as also the submission of Mac Gilla Phadruic (Fitz Patrick), Prince of Ossory, and his nobles, now determined on entering the devoted territory of Leinster; as a preliminary to which step, he set up his son as the monarch elect, who was to give him seventeen hostages for his allegiance. The Annals of Boyle, in their continuing notice of this year, suggest much of this.

“ The hostages of Tirconnel were given to Roderic. Roderic O'Conor, and Diarmid O'Maolsechnall, and Tiernan O'Ruarc, and the people of Leinster, and the foreigners of Dublin, drive Diarmid Mac Murrough beyond sea. Armies with Roderic, and with Diarmid, and with Tiernan O'Ruarc,



traversed Leinster, Ossory, and Munster, until all acknowledged Roderic king."

This prince, being thus far triumphant, convened, in the following year (1167), the celebrated synod of Athboy, the chief object of which was to obtain yet further pledges of allegiance to himself. It was attended by the princes and chiefs of Ulster, the leaders of the foreigners of Dublin, the princes of Brefny, Ulidia, and Uriel, the Archbishops of Armagh, Dublin, and Tuam, 13,000 horsemen, 6,000 of the people of Connaught, 4,000 with O'Ruarc of Brefny, 2,000 with O'Melaghlin, 4,000 with the princes of Ulidia and Uriel, 2,000 with O'Faolan, and 1,000 of the foreigners of Dublin. After effecting, by this demonstration of physical force, the paramount purpose of the convention, many ecclesiastical immunities were enlarged, and laws for the regulation of public morality enacted, or rather recalled into vigour from obsolescence; while it is especially noted by the Four Masters, that the assembly, notwithstanding the too frequently discordant materials of which it was composed, broke up without strife, complaint, or recrimination, "by reason of the auspicious prudence of the King," who convened it. That individual, after the synod was dissolved, made a royal progress, with several of the Irish chieftains in his train. Encountering some opposition in the territory of Tyrone, he attacked it "by sea and land," and, having effectually reduced its people to obedience, he divided it between Niall O'Loughlin and Hugh O'Neill;

thence he appears to have gone to the south, through Tyrconnel, and the intervening country, to Thomond, where Diarmid Mac Carthy, the King of South Munster, and Murtough O'Brien, King of North Munster, and all the chiefs of Leinster and Ossory, attended to renew their homage. Roderic is said to have entertained them with much hospitality, and, at parting, to have presented to Mac Carthy, the sword of his ancestor, King Cormac; and to O'Brien, the cup of his predecessor, Turlough. Little did the short-sighted monarch think in this, the zenith of his power, that the time was rapidly approaching, when his vassals should be scattered and his empire annihilated.

Within the walls of Ferns, then the capital of his kingdom of Leinster, Diarmid Mac Murrough had learned the successive triumphs of Roderic, and especially the results of the synod of Athboy; and at length, finding that the victor was advancing to destroy him in the last stronghold of his principality, he himself kindled the conflagration that consumed his town, "its citadels and its houses of stone." While he thus enjoyed the satisfaction of preventing its spoliation by his enemies, he opposed considerable embarrassments to their advance, by leaving the surrounding country waste before them, and retiring, with his few adherents, to woods remote and difficult of access. Satisfied, however, with some partial plunder, the superannuated Roderic, unequal to the emergency, turned from the smoking ruins to

redress comparatively unimportant disorders. Diarmid, nevertheless, while he exulted in the errors of his opponent, could not consider his own fate other than suspended for a precarious interval. Deserted, as he was, by his own subjects and tributaries, he therefore despatched messengers to those neighbouring chieftains, whose alliance in the days of his prosperity seemed most strongly assured; all, however, retreated from one, whose government had been an era of oppression, "who," as even Giraldus gives his character, "preferred to be feared, rather than beloved, by all; tyrannical to his own people, hated by every other, his hand was against every one, and the hand of every one against him." At this crisis, it but remained to seek support from another country, from those, whose feelings might be interested by pity for his dethronement, or by avarice for the bettering of their own fortunes; and he accordingly despatched his son, in the year 1167, to England, to invoke that assistance. The Annals of Boyle only notice, at this time,

"1167. Captives of Tyrone with Roderic . . . Diarmid. Turlough O'Brien, King of the southern half of Ireland, dies, in the year of the Incarnation 1167; from the beginning of the world, 6,366 years.

"1168. Murtough, the son of Turlough O'Brien, King of Munster, was slain.—Donough O'Carrol(*a*), King of Uriel,

(*a*) The genealogical notices of this sept must be here omitted, as too numerous.

dies.—Flanagan O'Duffy(a), Bishop of Siol-Murdach [Elphin], dies.—Victory obtained by Diarmid O'Maolsechnall

(a) He died at Cong. Tigernach, *ad ann.* 62, makes mention of Dubthach, the founder of the sept of the O'Duffys. The first noticed by the Annalists, after the introduction of surnames, appears to have been Brian O'Duffy, whose death, in 1008, is recorded in the Annals of Inisfallen. In 1097, Flanagan (Ruadh) O'Duffy died, Abbot of Roscommon, and prælector of Tuam; and in 1136, Donald O'Duffy died, Archbishop of Tuam, and Bishop of Clonmacnois. In 1143, Murdoch O'Duffy, Archbishop of Tuam, was one of the ineffective intercessors for Roderic O'Conor, when, as before alluded to, he was thrown into prison by his father, King Turlough; in four years afterwards, he was a more successful mediator for Teigue O'Brien. This prelate died in 1150, at Cong. In 1161 Maurice O'Duffy, as before also shewn, founded the Abbey of Boyle; and in the same year the memorable Catholicus O'Duffy of this sept succeeded to the Archbishopric of Tuam; and in 1167, attended the synod of Athboy. After the English invasion he was the chief negotiator between King Henry and Roderic, and was one of the ambassadors who, in 1175, at Oxford, arranged the treaty then concluded between them; in four years after which he sat at the Council of Lateran, in 1179; and died at Cong, in the close of that century. Another dignitary of the Church, Maurice O'Duffy, died Abbot of Roscommon, in 1174; as did William O'Duffy, Bishop of Clonmacnois, in 1297. The Connaught line of this family has been alone hitherto referred to; they had also branched into Ulster. In the beginning of the sixteenth century, when the Maguires, of Fermanagh, were anxious to fill the Augustinian priory of Lisgool, on the shore of Lough Erne, with Franciscans, and contracted with the fraternity in possession for its surrender, Owen O'Duffy, as minister provincial of the see of Clogher, was one of the witnesses to the deed by which that object was effected, and whereby the Lord Maguire covenanted to give, as a recompense, to the Abbot and his successors for ever, ten dry cows yearly; the Maguire thereupon com-

over Art O'Maolsechnall, at the ford of Comar(a).—Conor, the sandy-haired, son of Conor of Corcumroe(b), was slain.”

Returning to Diarmid Mac Murrough, the mission of his son to England not having proved as effective as the father expected, he early in this year (1168)

menced the building of the new friary, but the Dissolution prevented its completion. On inquisitions consequent upon the wars and forfeitures of 1641 and 1688, many of this sept were found to be proprietors within both provinces.

(a) This battle occurred at the ford of the river of Drumcree, a locality situated in the barony of Delvin, County Westmeath, where an establishment of Austin Friars existed at an early period, of which Collatus is recorded to have died principal, in 868.

(b) This territory, of which the above individual was chief, still bears the same name. The Annalists record the devastation of this district eight years previously, three times in the one year, by the hostility of the O'Conors and O'Briens. In 1094, a chief of the latter house, Donald, King of Limerick, founded a sumptuous monastery here for Cistercians; it was styled from its site “*de Fertili Petrá*,” and at first a daughter of that of Inislaunaght, on the Suire, but was afterwards made subject to the celebrated Abbey of Furnes, in Lancashire. In 1267 Donough O'Brien, King of Thomond, was interred here, and his monument is still to be seen in a niche, on the north side of the choir of this yet splendid ruin. In 1317, a sanguinary battle was fought near the town of Corcumroe, in which many of the O'Briens fell; among the slain were Teigue and Murtough Garbh, sons of Brian (Ruadh), King of Thomond. The field of action lay between the Abbey and the village of Murtoghclough; and to this day bones and skeletons are constantly dug up there. In 1418, the Abbot of this establishment was elevated to the bishopric of Kilmacduagh; on the Dissolution its possessions were granted to Richard Harding, but a succession of Abbots claimed title here, even to the time of Charles the First.

determined on soliciting in person the aid of King Henry's subjects, and with that object embarked at Hook Tower, with, according to Regan, a suite of sixty-one persons. On his arrival at Bristol, he was most kindly received and entertained, in the Abbey of St. Augustine, by Robert Fitz Harding, a Danish nobleman of that city; and, representing himself as an injured prince, driven from his ancient and rightful inheritance by a confederacy of faction, rebellion, and guilt, he was by all looked upon with feelings of compassion and sympathy; but, having learned that the King of England then sojourned in Aquitaine, he promptly delayed not to prosecute his mission in that province, and, appearing as suppliant before Henry, offered to hold his territories thenceforth as of the English crown, provided military aid were granted to him for their present recovery. The politic monarch at once perceived the prospects this submission opened for the attainment of his earliest wishes, but did not betray any selfish motive for precipitating himself into the quarrels of the Irish princes, or even disclose the Bull he had already received for the subjugation of their country. He contented himself, therefore, with accepting Diarmid's homage, and prospective allegiance, with a consequent commission, authorizing such of his subjects as might consider the adventure advantageous, to gather what forces they could in support of his cause, prudently calculating, that by their success or failure more enlarged views of invasion might be corrected, while

his own presence at that time in Ireland would be wholly impolitic, by reason of the insurrection of his French provinces, the obstinate rebellion of his brother Gebffrey, and the more precarious situation in which he was placed by his controversy with Archbishop Becket. The express terms of the royal commission are given in Giraldus, and, with this authority and letter as of credence, Diarmid joyfully returned to Bristol, in which city he preferred for a time to reside, as the place where, at the day, proceedings in his own province might be most promptly reported. After giving all publicity to Henry's manifesto, Diarmid, to encourage adventurers in his service, made ample promises of lands to such as would espouse his cause; and, after an interval, Richard Earl of Pembroke and Chepstow, commonly styled "Strongbow," from his excellence in archery, was the first to embrace his offers. He was a young nobleman of courage, genius, and military knowledge, and withal of a prudential conduct, the most likely to be serviceable, as it was acquired by the experience of adversity; he had wasted his patrimony in the prosecution of youthful hopes, but having lost the royal favour, now usually resided in gloomy retirement, and sullen neutrality, at his own castle of Pembroke. To him Diarmid proposed to give his daughter in marriage, with the inheritance of his kingdom, a disposition utterly inconsistent with the tanistry regulations of male succession in Ireland; the Earl, however, while he acceded to

the proposal cautiously deferred any active adhesion, until he could obtain from his jealous sovereign a more explicit and personal license for his interference. MacMurrough was, nevertheless, satisfied with his qualified engagement, and thereupon proceeded to St. David's, with a hope of bringing over to his cause Rhys ap Gryffin, the ruler of the surrounding country. This person wholly declined any personal co-operation, but having at the time as his prisoner Robert Fitz-Stephen, who had theretofore been governor of the Castle of Cardigan, and constable of all South Wales, he agreed, if this individual would relinquish his Welch possessions, to release him from confinement, and permit him, in concert with his maternal brother, Maurice Fitzgerald, and all the adherents they could collect, to assist the King of Leinster, who, on his part, agreed for such their services, to grant to them the fee of the town of Wexford, with two carucates of land adjoining. On the completion, and with the encouragement, of this compact, Diarmid took shipping, and landing at Glas-carrig, in the County Wexford, privately returned to Ferns, where he awaited the promised assistance.

While Roderic was ordaining measures for the support of the school at Armagh, by assessing every petty king in a render of ten cows yearly, in aid of that establishment, and while he was achieving some minor political movements, as the portioning of Meath at his will and pleasure; the exertions of those, whom Diarmid had left in Wales to advocate his interests,



had procured for his service, in the first instance, a few Flemings, from the colony of that nation, which had settled at Tenby and Haverford West; immediately upon whose arrival Diarmid was rashly excited to give battle, as recorded by the Four Masters, to his confederate enemies, O'Connor, O'Ruarc, and Diarmid O'Maolsechnall; his defeat was the result, when the victors compelled him not only to give up his own son to Roderic, as a hostage for his future allegiance, but also to surrender two-thirds of the province of Leinster; and, satisfied with these submissions, the infatuated monarch left him in possession of the remaining third. The insincerity of his professions was, however, clearly exhibited, almost as soon as they were pronounced, and in a few weeks after, on his continued invitations, the first organized attempt to conquer Ireland was made, as the adventure of a few private warriors. The Annalists of Boyle but slightly notice the circumstance, after recording the death of a chief of the O'Fallons of Clanhudagh, thus:

“ 1169. Fercar O'Fallon dies. The ships of Robert come to the aid of Mac Murrough.”

i. e. Robert Fitz-Stephen, who, upon obtaining his liberty, as was stipulated, landed at Bannow, having under his command, in three ships, 30 knights, 60 men in jacks or light coats of mail, and about 300 foot archers, all of the chosen youth of Wales, to whom Fitz-Stephen had promised the fullest participation of his fortunes. With this suite came Her-

vey de Mont-Morres, a near relative of Strongbow, designedly sent in advance by him, to explore the practicability of the projected invasion; and on the following day Maurice de Prendergast came over, also on Diarmit's behalf, with two ships, containing 10 knights and about 100 archers. The notice of this year, in the text Annals, concludes with recording

“Diarmit O'Maolsechnall was slain by Donald the faithless.”

This Diarmit was King of Meath, and Donald, his slayer, is described by the Four Masters as son of Maolsechnall of the cross.

On the landing of Prendergast, his men, with those of Fitz-Stephen, were received by Diarmit, with a body of native forces, now much increased by the hopes of his success, raised, as those hopes were, if not yet by the number, at least by the warlike appearance of his foreign allies; and thereupon joining their strength, all marched against the town of Wexford. Two thousand of the inhabitants, a mingled host of Irish and Ostmen, perceiving their approach, made a bold, irregular sally against the allies, but soon, confounded by the appearance of the completely armoured men, the barbed steeds, the glittering helmets, the novel and fatal discharge of the cross-bows, and, withal, the discipline of their assailants, they were compelled to retire, burning, however, in their retreat, the adjacent suburbs and

villages, but resolved to defend their town to the last extremity, in which determination they, with singular gallantry, maintained it for four days. After that interval it was surrendered, and immediately bestowed, with two adjoining cantreds, on Fitz-Stephen in possession, and on Maurice Fitzgerald (hereafter mentioned), when he should arrive; two other cantreds at the Waterford side of Wexford, were then likewise given to Hervey de Mont-Morres, with a view of yet more ingratiating the services of his kinsman, the Earl of Chepstow, in Diarmid's cause. On these lands, now known as the baronies of Bargie and Forth, Hervey settled that first colony of British, the difference of whose manners, customs, language, and attire, is, after the lapse of centuries, still discernible. When he had thus far shewn good faith to his new friends, Diarmid directed their hostility against the Prince of Ossory, the successor of Mac Gilla Phadruic, mentioned *ante*, at 1165, and with now 3000 men, he entered his country; but difficult of access as it was, by reason of woods and bogs, they encountered more effective opposition than they expected, in accomplishing their leader's object, nor was it, until they had wasted the whole country with fire and sword, that its ruler threw himself on their mercy, gave hostages to the spoilers, and, as Giraldus adds, solemnly plighted his allegiance on the sacrament. Diarmid afterwards proceeded southward, and burned the territories of O'Faolan, prince of Desies, whence, laden with spoil,

he returned to Ferns, and there, says the narrative attributed to Regan, he entertained the army during eight days, after which he marched to Glendalough, to avenge the disaffection of O'Toole, but in the fastnesses of their wild district, that sept eluded personal encounter.

While these movements of Mac Murrough were encouraging his adherents, Roderic summoned an assembly of such of the natives as would attend him at Tara. The appeal, as suggested by the Four Masters, and by Giraldus, was successful; all the chieftains present, with an auspicious unanimity, undertook to supply as many men to the cause as they could respectively muster, and Roderic thereupon, placing himself at the head of those who were earliest in the field, invaded the country of O'Kinselagh, when the crafty Diarmid, not yet too confident in his present supplies, in order to gain time, sent emissaries to his opponents, with a professed wish for the conclusion of a treaty with them. The weak-minded Roderic, unwilling to suspect a stratagem, agreed to the peace proposed, but the treaty was scarcely concluded, when its authority was disowned by the King of Leinster, two ships having arrived at Wexford, with a fresh detachment of ten knights, thirty horsemen, and about 100 archers, commanded by the before-mentioned Maurice Fitzgerald (the ancestor of the noble houses of Fitzgerald, Fitzmaurice, &c.) Elated at this accession, Mac Murrough determined, and found no difficulty

in persuading his allies, to turn their arms against Dublin, the citizens of which, he could not forget, had, many years previously, assassinated his father "in the centre of a certain large house, where," according to Cambrensis, "they used to hold their court, as in a forum." By this direction of their force, he assured them, the general interest would be best effected, and the conquest of the whole kingdom facilitated. Accordingly, leaving Fitz-Stephen to maintain their late acquisitions, they pursued their course, a track of desolation, to Dublin. Some few wooden houses, scattered over the hill on which the Castle now stands, and surrounded by a circular entrenchment, were the simple rudiments of that infant city; but this enclosure, being peninsulated by an arm of the Liffey and the unrestrained waters of the Poddle, was, on three sides, only approachable over hurdles, whence it was popularly called Bally-ath-cliath, i. e. "the town of the fords of hurdles." The Danes, during their dominion, sensible of its commercial advantages, while they made it the residence of their chief king, so improved upon its natural strength and its fortifications, that when Melaghlin, King of Meath, attacked it, about the year 1000, he was unable to enter, and retreated, satisfied with burning the vicinity. Diarmid was resolved not so to be disappointed, and, in appalling prosecution of his will, wasted the circuit and suburbs, to the foot of the citadel, when the wretched inhabitants were fain to implore, even from him, that forbearance, which, but for the intervention

of Maurice Fitz-Gerald, it is said, would not have been extended to them. The vengeance of Diarmit was for a time averted, and the forces of the assailants withdrawn, as it was first intended, for an invasion of Connaught, but, on consulting with Fitz-Stephen and Fitz-Gerald, Diarmit was advised first to seek the long-promised assistance from Strongbow, and forthwith to despatch messengers to accelerate his coming. They felt assured that the Earl's zealous adoption of their proceedings would be the result of the success that had attended them, nor were they mistaken; he was now prepared to direct every energy to a conquest, which had previously occupied all his thoughts and wishes; and, having taken the precaution of submitting his design for the especial sanction of his own sovereign, and received what he was willing to consider an assent, he, in May, 1170, despatched, as his advanced guard, Raymond le Gros, the nephew of Robert Fitz-Stephen, with ten knights and seventy archers, but did not himself take shipping until August, on the 23rd of which month he arrived in the haven of Waterford.

“A great fleet, with Richard, Earl of Strigul, to assist Mac Murrough, his father-in-law.”

The Earl was then accompanied by Richard de Percival, Roger le Poer, William Fitz Adelm de Burgo (ancestor of the house of Clanrickard), 200 other knights, and about 1000 soldiers in arms. On the shore he was received by Diarmit Mac Mur-

rough, Robert Fitz-Stephen, Maurice Fitz-Gerald, and Raymond le Gros, who joined their forces with his, while Raymond was made general of the field. [Here the historians of the monastery digress to record, what they could not be likely to omit, an event which happened on the ensuing 29th of December.

“ St. Thomas, Archbishop of Canterbury, was murdered, in the cathedral of his See, by the swords of the impious.”]

Diarmid, with his fresh associates, at once advanced to the assault of Waterford; it was, however, courageously defended, and the citizens twice repulsed their assailants; until at last, as Giraldus records, a wide breach having been made in the wall, the besiegers rushed in, and scattering through the city effected “ a most bloody victory.” Its plunder was given to the soldiery, and a strong garrison set over it, while, amidst the smoking ruins, the marriage of the Earl with Eva, the daughter of Mac Murrough, was, according to the previous agreement, at once celebrated. The nuptial ceremony was no sooner concluded, than Mac Murrough, who had only forborne before to execute his worst vengeance on the city of Dublin, from a distrust of its consequences at that time, now resolved to satisfy his resentment, and with the full force of the confederacy, he marched, as Cambrensis states, through Glendalough, to that city. A parley was sought, and the mediation even of the celebrated Archbishop O’Toole interposed, but Raymond le Gros and Milo de Cogan,

with a party of the more impetuous youths of the camp, would not be controlled; they scaled the walls, and at once, as Giraldus says, possessed themselves of the city with frightful carnage. Roderic O'Connor came up only in time to witness its capture and desolation.

“An army, with Roderic and Art O'Maolsechnall, and Donald the faithless, and with Tiernan O'Ruarc, and with Murrough O'Carroll [advanced] to Dublin; when they came nigh, they saw the citadel in flames; Roderic immediately advanced with his nobles to oppose the enemy, and Mac Murrough, though he had pledged his faith, did not keep it with the foreigners of the city, for he slew many of them.—The pledges of Mac Murrough were slain by the army of Tiernan.”

The King of Leinster no sooner learned the sanguinary assertion of retribution here last recorded, than he prevailed on Earl Richard to draw his forces into Meath, and the adjoining country of O'Ruarc, and to commit Dublin to the charge of Milo de Cogan, its first English governor. The Earl willingly entered into his designs, and, as the Four Masters on the one hand assert, and Giraldus on the other admits, he overran a country where his army had uncontrolled license, to spoil, slay, burn, and waste all before them. Clonard, Kells, Dowth, Slane, Kilskyre, were burned to the ground, and prisoners and pillage to a great number and amount were carried to their quarters. The Four Masters further record, in this year, a successful assault of Cormac Mac Carthy,



against the garrison of archers left in Waterford; an insurrection of Donald O'Brien, and his Dalcassians, against King Roderic; a fleet of transports brought over the Shannon, by that monarch, to devastate Meath; feuds and fights between the O'Kellys and the people of Ormond; between those of western Connaught and the O'Briens; with many other hurricanes of conflict and disorder, that swept the face of the island.

In the midst, however, of all the successes, which were the natural result of such vacillating and imbecile opponents, at the eve of the moment when he might have thought his revenge and ambition were about to be fully gratified,

"1171. Diarmid Mac Murrugh, King of Leinster, and of the foreigners, dies."

"He died at Ferns," add the Four Masters, "without making a will, without penance, without the Eucharist, and without extreme unction, as his evil deeds deserved."

"Victory of Lorrha(a).—Hugh, the son of Tiernan [O'Ruarc] was slain.—Magnus, son of Dunsleve, King of Ulidia, dies."

(a) This locality, situated in the present barony of Lower Ormond, was the seat of an early religious establishment, founded by St. Ruadhan, and his successors in its abbacy are numerous recorded by the Annalists. It was burned in 844 by the Danes, and again, accidentally, in the years 1154, 1157, and 1179. In 1269, de Burgo, Earl of Ulster, founded a Dominican friary here.

The Four Masters record forays and battles between the O'Fogartys and the Fitz Patricks; the inhabitants of Uladh (County Down), and those of Tyrone, with the results of Niall Mac Loughlin's predatory retaliation; between the people of Ormond and the O'Kellys; the men of Brefny and those of Saithne (Sonagh, County Westmeath); the O'Conors and the natives of Thomond; foray of the Earl and Milo de Cogan, over Ulster, as well as forays of the O'Flahertys over Corcumroe; while, concurrent with these domestic inflictions, Milo de Cogan plundered Duleek; after which he had an engagement with the Danes of Dublin; as had Cormac Mac Carthy, with those of Limerick; the son of the Earl devastated the churches of the plain of Leinster, and a large portion of the Desies; and the Earl himself ravaged Kildare. The unfortunate Roderic, and his constant adherent O'Ruarc, made a feint to besiege Dublin, but, after a fortnight ineffectually spent before the city, these chiefs retired to their own country, while the fleet of Roderic remained in Lough Dearg during six months. The people of Wexford were more effective, for, having surrounded Fitz-Stephen, who was left to control their movements, they carried him to the island of Beg-eri, off Wexford, and there held him in chains and momentary expectation of death.

The jealousy of the King of England was by this time awakened by the facts of Earl Richard's success, and increased by insinuations of his exaggera-

ted ambition; and with this impression, he issued a mandate to recal, under the severest penalties, all his subjects then in Ireland, and ultimately summoned Strongbow to his presence. The obedient nobleman, crossing the channel, met his sovereign at Newnham, near Gloucester, whither Henry had already advanced on his way to Ireland, and there did homage, with a surrender of all his acquisitions. The royal visit was not, however, on this account deferred, but, on the contrary, appeared at this juncture particularly advisable; as, while the decease of his mother, the Empress Matilda, who had always opposed the expedition, left him now at liberty to pursue it, the splendour of the preparations, and imposing novelty of the country and people he had to become acquainted with, were likely to turn the public attention, and even his own, from the consideration of Primate Becket's recent fate. At Milford, where the royal forces assembled, the king was anticipated by an address of deputies from the people of Wexford, who, being apprehensive that their conduct to Fitz-Stephen might draw down Henry's especial resentment, availed themselves of this, the earliest opportunity, to avert his anger by professions of submission, and assurances that their conduct, in reference to Fitz-Stephen, was dictated purely by their zeal for the English King, to whom, as they insinuated, he was a traitor, and had wantonly entered their country, slaughtered its inhabitants, seized on their possessions, and, in a word, sought to make

himself an independent despot; that for these reasons they had seized him, and held him hitherto in chains, but were ever ready and desirous to deliver him to the disposal of his legitimate sovereign. Henry received them most graciously, affected to commend their zeal, and even promised that the offender should be punished according to his demerits. Henry must, in truth, have known, that the adventurers were already perpetrating such individual acts in Ireland, under the pretence of conquest, as must tend to the ruin of the true interests of the British crown there, and that, not satisfied with being enriched with spoils, they were too frequently the factors of wanton destruction, insult, and carnage, to its inhabitants; at any rate his conduct in this exigence flattered the deputies, introduced him in a benevolent aspect to the Irish, and saved the life of Fitz-Stephen. Immediately afterwards, setting sail with 240 ships (*Four Masters*),

“ Henry, King of England, came to Ireland.”

He was accompanied by Earl Richard, William Fitz-Adelm, Humphrey de Bohun, Hugh de Lacy, Robert Fitz-Bernard, five hundred other knights, with a numerous band of horsemen and archers (according to the “Annals of Inisfallen,” 4,000). On his landing at Hook Tower, the monarch received upon the beach the renewed homage of Strongbow for the province of Leinster, of which he had been lately, according to the law of England, enfeoffed in right of his wife;

he also surrendered the city of Waterford; and here Henry made his first sojourn in Ireland, receiving the prompt and voluntary submissions of the petty kings of Cork, Thomond, Offaley and Desies; the people of Wexford too, in accordance with their previous declaration, and in testimony of the good faith of their deputies, brought Fitz-Stephen in chains before the King, when Henry, still feigning a politic indignation at his conduct towards the natives, remanded him to confinement, appointing Reginald's tower, in Waterford, as a more suitable place for his future incarceration. Soon afterwards, leaving this city, he progressed to Lismore, whence, after a sojourn of two days, he proceeded, with slow and stately pageantry, to Dublin, receiving in his course the respective submissions of all through whose territories he passed. On his arrival in the latter city, O'Toole, and even O'Ruarc, so long and deeply indebted to Roderic, acknowledged his paramount sovereignty; while O'Conor himself, though proudly reluctant to cross that noble river, which nature seemed to mark as the boundary of his dominion, is yet said to have done fealty on its banks to Hugh de Lacy and William Fitz-Adelm, as the royal deputies assigned to receive it. Giraldus, however, is the only necessarily partial authority on which this assertion rests, and the Irish annalists do not admit any such submission, while the Abbot Benedict confirming his inference, as from their silence, asserts that the king of Connaught still continued to main-

tain his independence. Ulster, it is allowed on all sides, did not then in any manner submit to the English Crown. Strongbow having made formal delivery of Dublin, Henry appointed Hugh de Lacy its governor, but remained himself on the outskirts of the city, where, in a palace hastily constructed, but, as Hoveden says, with admirable art, of polished wicker and timber "according to the fashion of the people," he most liberally feasted all his new subjects and tributaries. Weary of civil discord, the princes of the country crowded round him, the sterner qualities of the Irish chiefs melted away in the diffusion of social intercourse and amicable communication; to them there was much of magnificent novelty in the court, which the English sovereign designedly displayed to their admiration; the pastimes, the sports, the music, masking, mumming, and strange shews; the devices of gold, silver, and precious ornaments; the viands, wines, and spices, so inviting and so rare; the very array of officers, gentlemen, esquires, knights, and barons, in the splendid attire of Norman chivalry, glittering through the halls, or tilting over the field with their barbed horses, the king himself, in all the attractions of politic condescension, all contributed to beguile and amuse the natives; they yielded to the spell that is unhappily too seldom cast over Ireland—the lulling spell that the presence of royalty in peace can diffuse through the hearts of an ardent but confiding people.

The closing notice of this year (1171) in the An-

nals of Boyle, briefly records the fate of a prelate who had been, as before mentioned, Abbot of their fraternity; he was drowned in the Shannon.

“ Peter O'Mordha(a), Bishop of Clonfert, died.”

During the King's residence in Dublin, he invited thither an influential colony of merchants, from the even then celebrated trading port of Bristol; the measure was evidently dictated by a politic wish to replace the Ostmen population of that city, which had been slaughtered or banished on the late attacks of Diarmid Mac Murrough, and better to secure the interests of the English Crown, by such settlers in the metropolis. It was on this occasion he granted a charter to the citizens, commensurate with that of Bristol. Afterwards, in the beginning of the year 1172, he convened a synod at Cashel, which was attended by many prelates, and other ecclesiastical dignitaries of the country; when several wholesome regulations were made for bettering morals and discipline, the payment of tithes, the immunities of the Church, and the distribution of assets after death. The winter previous to and after this assembly had been so tempestuous, that Henry was compelled to remain nearly three months at Wexford before he

(a) He was the first Abbot of the Cistercian fraternity of Boyle, and elevated to the bishopric of Clonfert, whence, as it would seem, revisiting the scene of his early devotion, he was drowned, according to the Annals of Inisfallen, at Port-na-Carrig, near that place.

could debark, although he had received alarming intelligence, as of citations and inquiries, directed by Pope Alexander the Third, in reference to the circumstances of Primate Becket's death. He had resolved, however, that when the opportunity for his departure should arrive, the affairs of Ireland were not to be consigned to the interested direction of Earl Richard; he accordingly confided to Hugh de Lacy the government of Dublin, with, in truth, the government of Ireland, and the principality of Meath for the support of his viceregal dignity; he also placed governors over Waterford and Wexford, and made various grants of districts, which the circumstances of the times placed at his disposal. Such was the origin of English dominion in Ireland, but, when the presence of royalty was removed, that dominion was felt only in the power to do injustice; yet well had it been if the consequences of misrule had died with the tyrants of the day; unfortunately, however, for the generations of ages, the acts of those detached and licentious adventurers were allowed to assume the name of English administration, and bigotries were engendered, and hatreds associated, under the sanction of that opinion, which even the nineteenth century will not suffer to be forgotten. Having effected but thus much in the country,

“1172. Henry, King of England, returns; Tiernan O'Ruarc, King of Breffny, was slain by the English, and fixed upon a cross at Dublin.”



This so frequently mentioned chieftain, who had been the ruler of the eastern part of Meath, felt aggrieved by the affected grant of that entire province to De Lacy, and preferred his complaint to the Palatine, who appointed a day of meeting to adjust their difference, on the hill of Tara, when, warm altercation having arisen, Maurice Fitzgerald, says Cambrensis, rushed in upon O'Ruarc and slew him; his body was still further subjected to indignity, as appears by the above notice.

"Murrough Mac Murrough and Murrough O'Brien were slain together. Donald O'Ferral(*a*), leader of the clan of

(*a*) This ancient sept deduces its origin from Ir, the third son of Milesius; its chiefs were styled Kings of Annaly, a territory nearly commensurate with the present County Longford; they are also, by the native annalists, called kings of the marches of Leinster. In 1087, Sitric, son of Consleve O'Ferral, was slain at a battle in Coran, between Roderic, son of Hugh O'Conor, and Hugh, son of Art O'Ruarc, while, in another engagement, fought at Ross, near Rath Croghan, the Four Masters record three of the O'Ferrals slain. The Annals of Inisfallen relate, that in 1115, Turlough O'Conor, seeking to awe Murrough O'Melaghlin, advanced into the territory of Donogh, the son of Consleve O'Ferral, which he devastated until O'Melaghlin paid him tribute, and offered to God and St. Ciaran of Clonmacnois, a chalice of gold, a patena of brass, chased with gold, and a drinking cup of silver, embellished with gold. In 1141, Gildas O'Ferral, chief of Annaly, "Arbitrator of all Ireland," died at a great old age, and was buried in Iniscloghran. Anonymous annalists, cited by Ware, record, that Donald O'Ferral, and several of his clan, conspired, in 1148, to kill Tiernan O'Ruarc, whom they set upon and grievously wounded; but although he, on this occasion, escaped with life, his eric was exacted off Annaly, as if he had been slain

Annaly, was slain. The Bishop of Cork, Gilla Ceda O'Mugin(*a*), died in Christ."

by the sept. In 1172 the prince was slain as above, in a foray, as the Annals of Inisfallen add, which the English, aided by O'Ruarc, led over their country. In 1203 Amalgaid O'Ferrall, Abbot of Derry, was elected Abbot of Iona. In 1248, John Tyrrel, and a band of the English under his command, were slain by Giolla O'Ferral. Soon after the religious houses of Abbey Shrule and Ballynasaggard were founded by this sept within their district. In 1299, Florence O'Ferral died Bishop of Raphoe, "leaving behind him a great reputation for his alms-deeds, hospitality, and other good works." In 1335 Milo de Verdon had a royal allowance "for his services against Mac Geoghegan and O'Ferral." In 1347 Owen O'Ferral succeeded to the bishopric of Ardagh, as did Charles O'Ferral to the same see in 1373. In 1400, a noble Dominican friary was founded in Longford by the O'Ferral. In 1424 Cornelius O'Ferral died Bishop of Ardagh, whereupon Primate Swain laid claim, as in right of the church of Armagh, to the principal goods of the deceased Prelate, as his horse, his ring, and his cup; he appears to have been succeeded in this see by Richard O'Ferral, and, in 1486, William O'Ferral was promoted to this dignity, while he was also dynast of the sept, and continued to discharge its duties to his death. In 1541, Richard O'Ferral, theretofore Abbot of Larha, *alias* Granard, was elected Bishop of Ardagh; he also was chief of the sept, and sought to have his territory converted into shire land, and placed under English legislation, but that object was deferred, until Sir Henry Sidney, during his government in 1565, erected it into the County of Longford. In 1583, Lysagh O'Ferral obtained the see of Ardagh, by a grant from Queen Elizabeth, and, in two years afterwards,

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(*a*) He was a native of Connaught, and, previous to his elevation, Abbot of St. Finbar's, which took its name of Gille Abbey from him. After his elevation he assisted at the synod of Kells under Cardinal Paparo.

The Annals of Inisfallen record great floods in this year, and a synod of the laity and clergy, as held in Tuam; they also mention great sacrilege of churches as committed by the foreigners "after the King went away," while, on the other hand, O'Connor Offaley and O'Dempsey made a vigorous assault on Strongbow's forces at Kildare, slaying many, and amongst them Robert de Quincy, the Earl's son-in-law. The Annals of the Four Masters further record, in this year, "the fourth visitation of the entire province of Connaught," by the Primate Gelasius.

"1173. Donald the faithless was slain; Maelissa, the son

two of the sept represented their county in her first Irish national Parliament. About the close of this century the daughter and heiress of Cormac O'Ferral, intermarrying with Captain George Lane, became the maternal stock of the Viscounts Lanesborough. The subsequent plantation of Longford by King James swept away a great portion of the O'Ferral inheritance. In the convention of Roman Catholics who sat at Kilkenny, were Daniel O'Ferral of Enniscorthy, Fergus O'Ferral of Bleanvohir, and Francis O'Ferral of Moate; Colonel Richard O'Ferral was at this time a distinguished officer in the service of Owen Roe O'Neill. In 1662 Sir Connel O'Ferral, knight, was, by the Act of Settlement, "for his faithful and eminent services, and constant adherence to us in the parts beyond sea," restored to the manors, &c., of Tirlicken, Lacken, Larha, Lisaniskey, &c., to hold in fee as same had been held by his father, John O'Ferral. Captain Charles O'Ferral and Francis Ferral of Mornine, had similar restoration under the Act of Explanation, but in 1689, the sept having espoused the cause of James the Second, and two, Roger and Robert O'Ferral, having sat in his Parliament of Dublin, as members for the County Longford, an utter confiscation of their estates, and annihilation of their rank, ensued.

of Inuart, Bishop of Clonfert-Brendan, died ; Imar, the son of the son of Cargamna, captain of the clan-Maelin, dies ; Donald, the son of the son of Annaid O'Ruarc, was slain."

Donald the faithless, here mentioned, was of the O'Melaghlins, Kings of Meath, and was slain by his brother, who thereupon succeeded to the government of that district. Other annalists relate, that in this year Donald O'Brien came with an army to the Castle of Kilkenny, against the English garrison there, and that he was aided in his expedition by Conor, the son of Roderic, King of Connaught, but that the English, hearing of his approach, fled to Waterford, when the city and vicinity of Kilkenny were wasted by those native allies. The historians of Inisfallen note, in sadly expressive words, "great contentions during this year, so that many men were slain." In fact, the peace of the country was so disturbed on every side by the action and re-action of the most violent hostility, that King Henry, conscious of the activity and firmness of Strongbow, and no longer suspicious of his allegiance, which had in truth been latterly well evinced in that monarch's service on the fields of France, against his rebellious son, now specially deputed him to manage Ireland as Lord Warden, joining, however, Raymond le Gros in commission with him. Henry, at the same time, conferred the city of Wexford, with the royal castle of Wicklow, upon the Earl, who having, from reports of the state of the country, begun to entertain some reasonable apprehensions for the safety of his

province of Leinster, with willing promptitude proceeded to act upon the King's authority, and, landing at Dublin, was there received with great honours, and sincere welcomes, by the English adventurers, who, from his own liberality, and the military ardour of his associate, expected largesses of land, and a succession of victories; hopes which, though gratified most amply in the first instance, were latterly discouraged, in consequence of jealousies springing up between Strongbow and Raymond, and the return of the latter to Wales being further necessitated by the death of his father. On his departure Hervey de Mont-Morres was appointed commander of the army.

" 1174. Maelissa O'Connaghten, Bishop of Siol-Murry(*a*), died.—Gilla Mac Leac(*b*), successor of Patrick, died.—Gilla Morchabdeo, Abbot of the monastery of Paul and Peter, in Armagh, flourished.—O'Gorman(*c*), chief lecturer of Ireland,

(*a*) He was Bishop of Elphin, sometimes styled Bishop of East Connaught, and assisted at the Council of Kells, in 1152.

(*b*) Mac Leac, i. e. the son of the scholar, was the patronymic of the celebrated Primate Gelasius, who, in 1148, held a synod at Holmpatrick; in 1152 received the pall of Armagh; in 1157 convened the assembly before alluded to, for the consecration of Mellefont, and for other ecclesiastical purposes; in 1158 presided at that of Brigh-Teagh, in Meath; at that of Clane, in 1162; assisted at the Council of Athboy, in 1167; and at that of Armagh four years before his death.

(*c*) This ancient sept derives its pedigree from Heremon, the son of Milésius, through Hugony, the Great, one of Ireland's most illustrious monarchs. Without, however, occupying these

dies.—A battle was fought between the English and the people of Dublin [on the one side], and Donald, King of Munster, and Conor Maenmagi, with his followers, at Durlas(a), in which the English fell in death, and the people of Dublin perished.”

pages with more distinct genealogical details, the following brief notices may be mentioned as associated with the name. In 1152, Finan, the son of Tiorcain O’Gorman, was Abbot of Kildare, when he assisted at the Council of Kells. In 1164, Maol-kevin O’Gorman died, Abbot of Fore, at a very advanced age, with the character of having been “one of the most learned of the Irish. In his time flourished Marian O’Gorman, Abbot of Knock, near Louth; and author of a metrical Irish martyrology; and in 1174, died the O’Gorman, whose death is recorded above, chief lecturer of Armagh, and “the most learned doctor of divinity and moral law,” who, having studied during twenty years in France and England, governed the schools of his native country for a similar interval.

(a) Durlas, commonly called Durlas-O-Fogarty, being in southern Ely, the territory of the O’Fogartys, is identical with Thurles, a town on the Suire, in the barony hence called Eliogurty, and within three miles of Holycross. In the ninth century, the Danes sustained a signal defeat here from the natives. In a few years after the above engagement, Hugh de Lacy sacked Thurles. In 1292, its church, which, with all its rights and profits, was then appropriated to the Cistercian Abbey of Abington, was mortgaged to the Company of Lucca Merchants for fifteen years; soon after which a Carmelite monastery was founded in the town. In 1328, the Earl of Ormond, being Palatine of Tipperary, built a castle here; and here, in 1331, many of the O’Briens were killed by the English. Thurles, subsequently, obtained sundry charters as a corporation; and, in the fifteenth century, a Franciscan friary was erected within it by the English. In 1535, this place gave title of Viscount to James Earl of Ormond, in addition to his former honours; and on the Dissolution, the Carmelite friary,

This campaign was undertaken to avenge the discomfiture, which the English of Kilkenny had sustained in the preceding year, and was hurried on by the new commander, Hervey de Mont-Morres, from an anxiety to effect something that might emulate the fame of Raymond. Having led out his forces through Munster towards Cashel, at which place it was arranged he was to be joined by Strongbow, the main body had halted, as above, at Thurles, where O'Brien and Conor Maenmagi, who was the eldest son of Roderic O'Connor, intercepted their progress, slew four knights and 400 soldiers, according to Giraldus (700, according to the Annals of the Four Masters), and obliged the Earl himself to fly to Waterford, within which city he was forced to immure himself, as one besieged. This memorable defeat was a signal to the Irish chieftains, to unite in the re-assertion of their independence, and even Roderic O'Connor did not slight the hopes it suggested; he invaded Meath, drove Hugh Tyrrel from the castle of Trim, and Richard le Fleming from that of Slane, pursuing the garrisons even to the walls of Dublin. To consummate Strongbow's vexation, Donald Ca-

with all its possessions, was granted to his son Earl Thomas. The Abbot of the Franciscan house here would not surrender at that time, on which account he was brought a prisoner to Dublin, and there suffered a long captivity. In the civil wars of 1641, the castle of Thurles was taken, and dismantled by the Parliamentary forces; considerable remains, however, still testify its original extent and strength.

vanagh, the natural son of the late King, Diarmid Mac Murrough, who had heretofore firmly adhered to the English, now declared against them, and actually set up his own title to the kingdom of Leinster, in opposition to that acquired by Strongbow, and so long acquiesced in by himself. In this crisis of his fortunes the Earl saw no alternative but to intreat Raymond's return ; and the earlier to effect that object, he offered, what he had more than once before refused, the hand of his sister in marriage to this Achilles of the expedition. The self-banished chief, flattered by such an unequivocal testimony to his military pre-eminence, and delighted by the hope of a marriage with the object of his long-cherished affection, immediately embarked for Waterford, accompanied by a train of 30 knights, 100 horsemen, and 300 of the chosen youth of Wales. His arrival before that city was awfully critical; the inhabitants were paralyzed by his presence, and the gallant Welchman entering within their walls, without any effective resistance, carried off the Earl before opposition could be organized, and, though the inhabitants afterwards avenged themselves on the garrison of their city, slaying 200 (*Ann. Inisf.*), and harassed the rere-guard of the English, the latter, nevertheless, effected their march into Wexford, where the promised marriage was pompously solemnized, and Raymond received with his bride the fee of nearly three baronies of the County Kilkenny, and a large tract of Wexford, together with the high honour of



constable and standard-bearer. Raymond did not, however, permit his softer affections to interfere with the paramount pursuits of military glory, and, even on the morning succeeding his nuptials, he placed himself at the head of the impatient soldiery, and, entering the boundaries of Meath, compelled Roderic O'Connor to retreat, without a blow, to his own province, while he adopted instant measures for repairing the recently dismantled castles of Trim, Duleek, Slane, and other fortresses.

“ Maurice O'Duffy, first Abbot at Boyle, and third Abbot in the succession of the establishment, died.—Synod of Birr held.”

The synod here referred to Birr, was possibly that which by other authorities is stated to have been convened under King Henry's order at Waterford, and where Pope Adrian's Bull, confirmed as it then was, by that of Pope Alexander the Third, and transmitted for this purpose, was read, published, and ratified, with the confident expectation that this Pontifical sanction would effectually advance his interest amongst the general population of Ireland, and counteract the opposition which was rising, on the part of the petty princes, against the measures of his deputies. The Annals of the Four Masters refer to this year the annexation of the diocese of Westmeath (the ancient see of Fore) to the abbacy or see of Clonmacnois, by a general decree of the Irish clergy.

" 1175. Maelisa (Malachy), the son of O'Clery, Bishop of Ulidia(a), died.—Donald Cavanagh, the son of Diarmid Mac Murrough, King of Leinster, was slain,"

by the O'Nolans, and other clans of Carlow, add the Four Masters. In the mean time, Raymond le Gros, having received intimation in Dublin, that Donald O'Brien, Prince of Limerick, had revolted from his plighted allegiance, instantly selected an army of 26 knights, 300 horsemen, and 300 archers, with an additional force of infantry, and proceeded to that city, as recorded in the Annals.

" The foreigners went against Limerick(b),"

(a) So was the diocesan of Down sometimes styled; this Prelate also assisted at Cardinal Paparo's Council.

(b) This city was, from the earliest period, justly considered as one of the most important military positions in Ireland—the sentinel of the Shannon, the key of Munster—and as such was seized into the possession of the Danes, on their earliest invasion of the island, and its fortifications considerably strengthened by them. Here, in 843, having carried off the Abbot of Tirdaglass, they martyred him; and the Four Masters record many other instances, in which this place was similarly the scene of their persecution. In 884, however, the people of Connaught slaughtered many of this hostile colony. In 920 and 951, these settlers plundered Clonmacnois and the islands of Lough Ree, as they did those of Lough Corrib in 927. In 932 they devastated Connaught to Moylurg, a visitation which was avenged upon them in 938. In 943, Callaghan, King of South Munster, assembling his chiefs, exhorted them to arm throughout the country against those pirates, when Limerick was selected for the first attack. "A thousand of his chosen warriors," according to the Irish Annals, "marched upon this service, headed by Callaghan, under whom

and the foreigners conquered, the intrepid character of Raymond again secured his triumph; the inhabi-

were O'Donovan, O'Sullivan, O'Keeffe, O'Riordan, O'Leaghan, Hugh Mac Cuilenan, and other chiefs." Their enemies were not less eager for battle; they sallied from the city "in four divisions, each of 400 armed with coats of mail, besides light armed troops," and at a place now called Singleland, a sanguinary engagement ensued, which ended in the defeat of the Ostmen. The Irish pursued them into the city, putting numbers to the sword in their castles and houses, but, instead of taking possession of the town, Callaghan (as if actuated by a native prejudice against artificial fortifications) was contented with exacting large contributions, "part of which was paid at the time in gold and merchandize, and hostages taken as a security for the remainder." In 965, Limerick was wasted and burned by the King of Cashel, and in 976, the Danes of this city were defeated in battle by Brian Boromha. In 1063, the city was again burned by Turlough O'Brien. In 1088, Donald, King of Alichia, and Roderic O'Conor, King of Connaught, with their respective forces, burned Limerick and the plains of Munster. The city suffered again by fire in 1108. On the arrival of Henry the Second in Ireland, O'Brien, King of Thomond, surrendered this city to him, while he did homage for the rest of his territory. In 1175 occurred that attack upon the town mentioned in the text. In 1177, King Henry assigned it to the sons of the Earl of Cornwall, they, however, surrendered all benefit of the grant, on the ground that it was not, at the time, properly subjected to the King of England, "for," adds the Abbot Benedict, a writer contemporaneous with the event, "although the King of Limerick had sworn fealty to Henry the Second, yet his successor, witnessing the evils and cruelties which the English adventurers had inflicted upon him and the rest of his nation, was wholly reluctant to pledge his fealty, or enter covenant with them;" the King, nevertheless, thereupon affected to grant the city to Philip de Braosa, to be held of the King and his son John, at the service of sixty knights. Royal charters

tants, amazed at his boldness, evacuated the city, when all its spoil was given up to his soldiery, and he, leaving an adequate garrison to maintain it, returned to the borders of Leinster.

were afterwards frequently granted to the town, and many ecclesiastical houses were erected and endowed within it, exclusive of the cathedral, whose foundation was of the seventh century. In 1483, Gerald Earl of Kildare, Lord Deputy of Ireland, held a Parliament here. In 1607, John Burke, Lord of Brittas, was, by order of Lord Mountjoy, tried in Limerick for high treason, and, refusing to acknowledge the King's supremacy, was sentenced to death, and executed at Gallows-green. Three years afterwards King James granted a charter to the Corporation, immediately after which, the precise metes and boundaries of the liberties and franchises were ascertained and assigned. In 1642, the town was besieged and reduced by the Irish party. In 1651, it was mortgaged, on behalf of the King, to the Duke of Lorraine, for the repayment of £20,000, lent by him for the King's service in Ireland. In 1652, General Ireton, strengthened by the forces of Lord Broghill, besieged Limerick; he sent a summons into the city, but this being rejected, he played his cannon upon it, beating down several houses, and making sad havoc in the town; at last, harassed as it also was, by famine and plague, it yielded at discretion, the Governor, O'Neill, a brave soldier, having liberty to transport himself, and some of his suite, to any foreign country; but as soon as the conquerors entered the city, they beheld there a most lamentable spectacle, the plague having destroyed so many that the living could not bury the dead. Ireton, after two days' sojourn, took the infection, of which he died; he was afterwards interred in Henry the Seventh's chapel, in Westminster, but his body was, on the Restoration, removed, and buried at Tyburn:—but the historical associations of Limerick, especially those of a subsequent date, are too numerous, and of too much national importance, to admit of, or need, any notice in this place.

“Conor, the son of the son of Concaleigh, the successor of Patrick [in the see of Armagh] died,”

at Rome, add the Four Masters, whither he had gone to confer with the successor of St. Peter. The *Annals of Leinster* add to the notices of this year, that then the King of Ireland, i. e. Roderic O'Connor, led a great fleet over Lough Dearg, by means of which he destroyed all Ormond, and brought off seven captives as hostages of the adherence of the O'Briens to his sovereignty, yet was it at this period that, possibly influenced by the publication of the Pope's Bull, and yet more disheartened by reiterated misfortunes, when he saw no hope of being able to contend for the kingdom, he narrowed his negotiations with the English king to the sole object of securing a minor sovereignty, within the ancient inheritance of his family, and with this design despatched emissaries to Henry, then holding his court at Windsor, where, in consequence, was concluded the remarkable treaty, still preserved on record. It is dated as within the octave of St. Michael, 1175, names the contracting parties as the Lord the King of England, Henry Fitz-Empress, and Roderic, King of Connaught, by his deputies, the Archbishop of Tuam, the Abbot of St. Brendan, and Archbishop O'Toole, Chancellor of the King of Connaught; and Henry thereby granted to Roderic, his liegeman, King of Connaught, that as long as he faithfully served him, and was prepared to do suit as his subject, he might be a king, and hold his own land as he held it before the King

of England entered Ireland, rendering tribute, however therefor, and might also enjoy the government of the rest of the province, and its people, according to their own laws, but subject to the payment of tribute, and the doing fealty to the King of England; and that if any of his (Roderic's) people became rebels to the King of England, or refused to pay him such tribute and dues, they should be condemned and removed by Roderic, in which he was to be aided (if requisite) by the Constable of the King of England, and his force; and Roderic thereby covenanted to pay a certain tribute of dressed hides to Henry, and not to interfere with those districts, which the latter retained in his own demesne, or in the demesne of his barons, there stated to be Dublin, Meath, Wexford, Leinster, Waterford, and Dungarvan, with their appurtenances; and lastly, it was provided, that such of the Irishry as wished to return to any of these baronial lands, might do so in peace, on paying tribute, and rendering their ancient services, as directed by their Lords: while, on the other hand, if any were unwilling to return, whose services their lords might require, in such case Roderic should oblige them, by pledges, to come back and reside upon their former lands, which they might thenceforth hold in peace, on the condition of rendering dogs and birds yearly to the King of England; while it was further agreed, that the said pledges were to be assigned to Henry, and no portion of the thus ceded territory retained against his will and disposi-

tion. Such were the terms on which this superannuated prince was permitted to purchase peace, and for the due observance of which, on his part, he was to deliver one of his own sons as a hostage. The record is given in full in "Rymer's Fœdera," Vol. i. Part i. f. 31, but is not noticed by the Annalists of Boyle, or by the Four Masters, while the Annals of Inisfallen appear to have singularly construed its scope, their version being, "Anno 1175, Catholicus O'Duffy came out of England, from the son of the Empress with the peace of Ireland, and the royal sovereignty of all Ireland to Rory O'Conor, and his own province to each provincial king of Ireland, and their rents to Rory as formerly, before the coming of the English." Ireland, in the meantime, continued to be harassed, as of old, by the feuds of the native princes, as of the O'Briens with the Fitz-Patricks, the O'Conors with the O'Briens, the O'Mulloys with the Mac Coghlanes, &c. The Four Masters in their notices of this year record the death of Flaherty O'Brolchan, comorb of Columbkille, i. e. Abbot or Bishop of Derry, "a tower of wisdom and hospitality, to whom the clergy of Ireland had given a diocese for his great virtues and superior wisdom."

"1176. Richard of Strigul, i. e. the Earl, died."

"of an ulcer in his foot," say the Four Masters, "a visitation attributed to Saints Brigid, Columbkille, and other saints, whose churches he had destroyed, and it is said that he thought he saw St. Brigid

killing him." His health had been declining for some time previously; he died in Dublin, without issue male, and leaving Isabel, his only child by Eva, heiress, according to the English law of inheritance, of all his possessions. Raymond le Gros, the brother-in-law of the deceased, was at this crisis engaged in securing the possession of Limerick to the English king, but, on receiving the above important intelligence, he felt necessitated to withdraw the garrison, and, affecting to confide the custody of this place to Donald, prince of Thomond, as an ally and liege of the Crown of England, he and the garrison, or, as the *Annals of Boyle* say,

"The strangers left Limerick. Diarmit, the son of Cormac, was taken by Cormac the White."

The latter passage alludes to an event of deplorable disorder in the Mac Carthy family. This Cormac the White, son of Diarmit, having rebelled against his father, threw him into prison, as here suggested, and threatened to drive him from his principality; the old chieftain hereupon solicited the aid of Raymond: promising to himself considerable landed possessions, and liberal remuneration to his soldiers. Le Gros, before the evacuation of Limerick, willingly acceded to his offer, marched to his relief, vanquished the rebellious son, and delivered him to his father, when he was slain by the sept, as in the text hereafter, while Raymond obtained for his services a large territory in the County Kerry, where he set-



tled his son Maurice, who, marrying the daughter of Milo de Cogan, grew so powerful in that country that he imparted his own name to the district, *Clan-Maurice*, and the patronymic of *Fitz-Maurice* to his descendants.

“Niall, the son of the son of Loughlin, was slain; Cormac the White was slain by his own sept; Donald, second son of Turlough O’Conor, tanist of Connaught, died; Imar O’Ruadin, Bishop of Hy-Fiachra<sup>(a)</sup>, died.”

The Annals of Leinster, in their notices of this year, say that, immediately after the garrison had been taken from Limerick, the people of Thomond razed the fortress; and those of Inisfallen add, that Milo de Cogan and Fitz-Stephen encamped before Cork, and devastated the country between that and Waterford, while, in the other direction, the tract between Cork and Limerick was wasted in a war between the people of Desmond and those of Thomond. The Annals of Inisfallen also record an expedition of the foreigners of Dublin into the North, even to Eamania, but the people of Louth came upon them at the wood of Conaille, and drove them thence to Tullyard, and even to Dublin, slaying 500 of their force.

“1177. Hugh, the son of Gilla Broiti O’Ruarc, died; Ragnall Mac Gilla Cellagh O’Ruadin, Bishop of Kilmacduagh, died; Cardinal Vivian came to Ireland.”

“He came,” as recorded by the Four Masters, “on

(a) This was a territory of the County Mayo, on the banks of the Moy, the diocese has been since styled of Killala.

the first Sunday in Lent, and convened a synod of the Irish Bishops and Abbots, at Dublin, in which they enacted many ecclesiastical regulations, not now observed." Raymond le Gros was, at this time, the self-elected ruler of Ireland, having assumed the government on the death of Strongbow; the King, however, on learning the Earl's death, sent over his particular favourite, William Fitz-Adelm, as Viceroy, when Raymond, hearing of his arrival, met him promptly on the borders of Wexford, and receiving him with open-hearted confidence, at once resigned to him, as the King's deputy, the cities, fortresses, and hostages, that he had held. If Giraldus can be considered impartial in his narrative of this interview, Fitz-Adelm did not requite this conduct with equal magnanimity; according to that historian, when he beheld the gallant band of warlike relatives, with which Raymond was surrounded, sporting and careering, with devoted chivalry before him, their shields emblazoned with the same armorial bearings, the Viceroy, in the unguarded indulgence of his jealous feelings, marked them out as objects for the animosity of his courtiers, and expressed his determination ere long to subdue their pride, and scatter the glory of their plumage, a threat which he spared neither time nor labour to verify. "The unpopularity," writes Moore, "which attended Fitz-Adelm's administration may be sufficiently accounted for from its general character, without laying much stress on the particular charges which have been

brought against it by the chroniclers, and the simple fact, that he was actuated in his government more by political than by military considerations, abundantly explains the contemptuous impatience with which he was submitted to by the colonists, who, being, for the most part, armed and impatient adventurers, had hitherto prospered, and expected still further to prosper, by the trenchant policy of the sword. Among those most impatient of such inaction was John de Courcy, a baron, second in command to Fitz-Adelm, and gifted with extraordinary prowess and daring. Having looked to Ireland as a field of spoil and adventure, De Courcy was determined not to be baulked in his anticipations, so, choosing out of the troops under his command, a body of two-and-twenty knights, and about 300 other soldiers, he proposed to lead them into the heart of Ulster, a region yet unvisited by the English arms, and therefore opening to his fierce ambition a fresh source of aggrandizement and military fame." Accordingly, at this time, in defiance of a peremptory order from the Deputy,

"John de Courcy came to Ulster and slew many, and took the city of Dundalethglass [Downpatrick]."

Entering Ulster with twenty-two knights and 300 foot soldiers, his achievements there (more particularly detailed in the Annals of the Four Masters) were a succession of remorseless sacrilege and rapine, until, after much opposition, and much discomfiture,

he ultimately established his settlement in that fine province. While these events were passing in the North, Murrough, the rebellious son of Roderic O'Connor, induced another adventurer, Milo de Cogan, then in Dublin, to invade his father's province, promising he would be ready to assist him, and holding forth, at the same time, such prospects of plunder as easily induced the achievement. The Annals thus introduce those events :

“Conor Maenmagi was taken prisoner by his father.—Milo Cogan(*a*), with a great army, came into Connaught,

(*a*) To this Cogan, and to Robert Fitz-Stephen his uncle, Henry the Second granted the kingdom of Cork. Milo was, as before mentioned, the first English Castellan of Dublin, and was slain by the Irish, as hereafter recorded, in 1182 ; when his brother Richard was sent over by the King to succeed him in the government of Cork. This Richard was, in 1221, summoned to attend a great council in Ireland ; his son, John de Cogan, will be found noted, at 1236, in the Annals of Boyle, and had summons in 1244, to do military service against the Scots. His descendant, John de Cogan, knight, founded the Franciscan friary of Cong, about the year 1290 ; was, in 1294, summoned to the wars in Gascony ; and was, in 1309, buried in St. Saviour's priory, Dublin. In 1327, a third John de Cogan founded the monastery of Clare-Galway ; in 1334, William Cogan was Lord Treasurer of Ireland ; and in the following year Milo de Cogan was one of those summoned to attend Sir John D'Arcy, then justiciary, in his expedition against Scotland. In 1438, Robert Fitz-Geoffry Cogan conveyed to Gerald Fitz-Gerald, Lord of Desies, certain districts of the County Cork, as his lands in Ireland. In half a century afterwards, James Cogan, being prior of Holmpatrick, took the required oaths of allegiance to Sir Richard Edgecombe ; and in 1600, Catherine, daughter of William Cogan, having married John de

and penetrated as far as Tuam ; then they returned to Meath in the same week.—Murrough, the son of Roderic, was deprived of his sight.—Hugh O'Neill was slain.”

Five hundred soldiers, animated with the same spirit of enterprise which characterized the followers of De Courcy, placed themselves under the standard of De Cogan, and passing the Shannon, entered Connaught, a province never hitherto traversed by an English army. “ The natives, at their approach,” as Giraldus testifies, “ acting on the effective policy, evinced within the memory of the present generation, drove their cattle into the fastnesses, hid their provisions in caves, and set fire to their towns and villages; so that, although Milo reached Tuam, he but found that his advance had placed him in a hostile, and to him, barren country.” Fain would he have fallen back upon the Shannon, but there, at the ford of Athaliag (the site of the present bridge of Lanesborough), he was intercepted by the aged Roderic O’Conor, when, after a sanguinary engagement, he, with difficulty, succeeded in re-passing the river, and returned ingloriously to Dublin. Murrough, Roderic’s son, was taken prisoner, and, in the excited feelings of an injured father, deprived of sight. It was a singular circumstance, that Henry, King of England, and Roderic, once King of Ireland, should have been

Courcy, the eighteenth Lord of Kinsale, brought with her a part of these Cork estates, which had been theretofore the inheritance of her paternal ancestors.

thus, about the same period, afflicted with, perhaps, the heaviest visitation of heaven, that human nature can sustain, the curse of disobedient children. Yet was it at this time, that the former monarch decided upon appointing his son John, then Earl of Morton, Lord of Ireland, with a trust of enjoying it, as a fief under the English crown, a measure that was accordingly carried into effect at Oxford, and recognized by numerous grants of lands in Ireland, to be held "as of the King and his son John." A speculation, which had it been so realized, would possibly have made Ireland an independent nation for centuries, was, however, frustrated, by the death of Prince Arthur, and the consequent succession of John to the British diadem.

"1178. Flight of the foreigners.—Hugh de Lacy came to Clonmacnois."

Fitz-Adelm's administration having become utterly unpopular in Ireland, the King consigned the government of the country to Hugh de Lacy, the first Palatine of Meath. One of his first expeditions was to Clonmacnois, which, it is said, he proposed to plunder; but, as the Annals of Inisfallen detail this here brief notice, "the men of Connaught did not suffer him to take any rest that night, and he went off very early next day, being in dread that Roderic and his sept would overtake them at that place." Their flight seems to explain the commencement of the last Annal, though, perhaps, not in the best structure of the sentence.

“ Maenmagi was taken by his own sept at Lough Con.—Hugh O’Flaherty, King of Western Connaught, dies, when obtaining a victory on the Shannon.—Amlave O’Donnellan(*a*) dies.—Gilla Crist O’Etaich, Bishop of Conmacne

(*a*) The O’Donellans deduce their descent from Heremon, through Cahal, the second son of Murrbugh Muillethan, King of Connaught in A. D. 701. In 958, Conang O’Donellan died, principal of Clogher. In 1014, Conor O’Donellan, styled chief of Turtri, slew Murtough O’Niall; and in 1058, Achir O’Donellan, Bishop of Lothra, died in the Abbey of Inisfallen; while in six years afterwards, Culen O’Donellan, Doctor of the Brehon Laws, in Offaley, was slain by the Crimthans. In 1109, Ængus O’Donellan, the best confessor and minister of the monastery of Columbkille, died; as did Amlave O’Donellan, the antiquary and poet of Connaught, in 1177; and Flan O’Donellan, chief poet of Connaught, in 1342; Melaghlin O’Donellan, chief poet of Siol-Murry, and a learned historian, in 1375; and Anglioch O’Donnellan, chief poet of the Mac Dermots, in 1395. In 1412, Tully O’Donellan, chief of the sept, built the castle of Bally-Donellan, where his descendant, Melaghlin O’Donellan, died in 1548, leaving Nehemiah, his son, who was educated in Cambridge, and afterwards, in 1595, consecrated Archbishop of Tuam. His second son, James Donellan, rose to the rank of Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, and was, in 1637, one of the presiding Commissioners on King Charles’s memorable inquiry as to the King’s title to Connaught. Melaghlin Donellan, of this family, was a colonel in the army of James the Second, at the battle of Aghrim, and was comprehended in the Articles of Limerick; his brother James was also in the same service, a major in Lord Louth’s regiment, and passed into France, where he obtained a high commission from Louis the Fourteenth, but was killed in Piedmont, in 1693. In 1695–6, Nehemiah Donellan, was one of the Commissioners appointed to inquire into and adjudicate upon the claims of persons comprehended within the Articles of Limerick and Galway; and in 1742, Peter O’Donellan was Roman Catholic Bishop of Clonfert.

[Ardagh], died.—Tuathal O'Connaghty, Bishop of Hy-Briuin, rested in peace."

The Annals of Inisfallen mention in this year more fully, as might be expected, from the locality of their compilation, that a battle occurred between the septs of O'Brien and Mac Carthy, when both parties wasted the whole country from Limerick to Cork: "the tribe of Eogan was obliged to shelter in the woods of Iveagh, and the people of Gavra fled, with the sept of O'Donoghue, over Mangerton, southward; O'Donoghue, however, with Cuilean O'Cuilean, and the chieftains of Desmond, rallying their forces, preyed and plundered the plains of Cashel, for the wrongs so done to them in Desmond and Kerry. The Annals of the Four Masters relate, "a drying up of the river of Galway for several days, so that all things lost in it, from time immemorial, were recovered."

"1179. Imar O'Cathasaigh, King of the race of Saithne (Sonagh), dies.—General Synod(*a*), Alexander presiding. with 737 bishops.—Snow storms."

In this year, add the Annals of Inisfallen, Robert Fitz-Stephen, Milo de Cogan, and Philip de Braosa, landed at Waterford with great forces, to aid their countrymen in Munster, and they committed great damage and desolation over that province, while, in

(*a*) This refers to the Council of Lateran, held in the time, and under the presiding sanction of Pope Alexander the Third. It was attended by Archbishops Laurence O'Toole and Catholicus O'Duffy, with some suffragan Prelates of Ireland.



the North, according to the Four Masters, all the churches of Tir-Eoghan, from the mountains southwards, were abandoned on account of the wars, commotions, and famine.

“ 1180. Gilla Crist, the son of the son of Cargamna, leader of the Clan-Malin, was slain; battle of the O'Conors, Conor Maenmagi and Conor O'Cellaigh, in which fell Conor O'Cellaigh, with his son Teigue, and his cousin Diarmit, and the son of his brother, and a multitude of nobles and commonalty. There likewise fell Teigue, the son of Teigue O'Conor, and on the other side Murdoch, son of Murdoch O'Flaherty, and Diarmit, the son of Conor Maenmagi; Murrrough, the son of O'Hedin, King of Hy-Fiachra-Aidne(*a*), was slain. Laurence, Archbishop of Dublin, and Legate of all Ireland, died.”

This illustrious prelate, Laurence O'Toole(*b*), having, as Giraldus mentions, incurred the jealousy of King Henry, by some representations which he made of the adventurers' excesses in Ireland, while he was at the Council of Lateran, was by that King prohibited from returning to his province, which so affected him that he pined unto death at the monastery of Eu, in Normandy. In this year, add the Annals of Inisfallen, an atrocious sacrilege was perpetrated against the clergy of Ireland; the monastery of Inisfallen having been devastated by Maoldun, son of

(*a*) A district of what was afterwards called Clanrickard, in the County Galway.

(*b*) See, in reference to his life and character, “Memoirs of the Archbishops of Dublin.”

Donald O'Donoghue, and "whatever riches were there deposited, under the protection of its patron, its clergy, and its holy roof," were carried away by him; he plundered the gold and silver of the shrines, and the precious things and goods of Western Munster, without respect to God or man; but "the mercy of heaven forbid his slaying any, or scattering the books of the fraternity." Ardfert was likewise wasted by the Clan-Carthy, who slew many men of note in the very middle of the sanctuary and churchyard, and drove away all the cattle of the clergy. In the mean time the ravages of De Courcy in Ulster continued, while he strengthened his power by marrying the daughter of Godfrey, King of the Isle of Man. The same Annals (Inisfallen) refer another interesting marriage to this year, that of Rose, the daughter of Roderic O'Connor, with Hugh de Lacy.

"1181. Donald O'Kennedy(*a*), King of the people of Or-

(*a*) So early as the year 758, the Annals of Tigernach record the death of Cathal O'Kennedy, King of the Kinselaghs. In 935, Saorgus O'Kennedy, Abbot of Dermagh, died, as did Dubdalethy O'Kennedy, Prefect of Cork, in 1057, and Eochaid O'Kennedy, Prefect of Trim, in 1059. In 1100, Flann O'Kennedy, Prefect of Trim, and chief Professor of Poetry in Meath, died, and in 1110, Murtough O'Kennedy, King presumptive of Ormond, was strangled. In 1117, as recorded by the Four Masters, two of the sept were slain in a battle between the people of Munster and those of Connaught. The same annalists mention, that in 1135, O'Madden, chief of his sept, was slain by the son of Gildas Kevin O'Kennedy, Prince of Ormond, and the youths of his clan. In 1159, this Gildas died in pilgrimage at Killaloe, and in the same

mond, dies; Donsleve O'Gara, King of Slieve-Luga, dies; battle of the Kings presumptive."

The Annals of Inisfallen supply matter to explain this short note. While De Lacy's government was inducing order and allegiance within the Pale, and while his politic foresight was sentinelling its marches with castles; in the Irish territories, beyond that line of demarcation, all was still feud and rapine. O'Maeldora, then the presumptive successor to the government of Tyrconnel, entered Connaught and defeated the sons of King Roderic in a bloody battle, slaying many of their forces, and amongst them sixteen of the monarch's own kindred; this intelligence no sooner reached the ears of De Lacy, than he felt himself called on to interfere, not only in regard to his duty as the King's viceroy, but also to the personal claims, which, by his late alliance, Roderic had on his services, where not conflicting with that duty; with this object, therefore, he attempted to enter the province of his father-in-law, but had no sooner crossed the Shannon, than he was most vigorously opposed, and compelled to save himself and his men by a precipitate retreat. De Lacy's enemies gladly seized this opportunity of impeaching him to

year fell, at the battle of Ardee, two chiefs of this sept, with many of the nobles of Munster. In 1164 Amlave, the son of the above Gildas, was deprived of his sight by Turlough O'Brien. In 1198, O'Kennedy died Abbot of Inisfallen, as did Donald O'Kennedy, Bishop of Killaloe, in 1252, about which latter time the monastery of Nenagh was founded by one of this family.

the King, suggesting in his too credulous ear the worst results of that discomfiture, and the most malicious inferences from the late alliance which the Palatine had contracted: he had heretofore, they also insisted, established his own vassals and partizans throughout all Meath, and now actually received personal tribute from the entire province of Connaught, confederated with the Irishry, and, in his growing popularity, aimed at the supreme sovereignty of the nation. Influenced by these unjust insinuations, Henry recalled De Lacy, and in his place sent over, as Lords Justices of Ireland, John Constable, Baron of Halton Castle, in Cheshire, and Richard de Piche, usually styled Bishop of Chester; they did not, however, continue long in the guardianship of this country, for De Lacy conducted his defence against their charges with such discretion, and gave his sovereign so satisfactory an account of his administration, in all matters objected against him, that he was in three months reinstated in his high official situation.

“Pope Alexander [the Third] died.”

This Pontiff zealously opposed Henry the Second's encroachments on the Church, and censured his conduct in connexion with the fall of Archbishop Becket.

“1182. Hugh O'Cellaidy, Bishop of Orgial [Clogher], Donald O'Huallachan, Archbishop of Cashel, died; Milo Gogan [Cogan], and Remund, and Cendculind, two sons of

Fitz-Stephen, were slain ; victory obtained by Roderic and by Conor Maenmagi over O'Mældora, and over Donogh, the son of Donald of Meath, where many were slain."

The deaths of Cogan, and the sons of Fitz-Stephen, occurred near Lismore, by the hostility of the natives, while Roderic's victory was one of reprisal, for the defeat he had sustained, as before mentioned from the Prince of Tyrconnel.

" 1183. Bec O'Hara, King of Luigne, was slain.—Gilla Ultan Mac Cargamna was slain."

It was at this period that, wearied by the divisions of his subordinate chiefs, and yet more by the undutiful conduct of his ambitious sons, the unfortunate King of Connaught resolved upon closing his worldly career, and retiring into the monastery of Cong; accordingly runs the notice:

" Roderic O'Conor relinquishes his kingdom to his son Conor Maenmagi."

He had not, however, as will be seen by subsequent notices, the consistency to maintain the resolution.

" The Abbey of Samaria(a) was founded.—The son of the

(a) The religious house, styled "*de Samariá*," was situated near Ballyshannon, at Easroa, i. e. Eas-Aodh-ruadh, the waterfall of Hugh the Red, King of Ireland, who, the Four Masters say, was accidentally drowned there, in A. M. 4518, and buried in an adjacent mount. The cataract is formed by a discharge of water from the west end of Lough Erne, into the Bay of Donegal. The Annals record another death by drowning here, in A. D. 971, in the person of Maelmarcius, Abbot of Durrow; while those of Inia-

son of the Empress, King of England [i. e. Prince Henry], dies.—Bishop Gilla O'Heda died.

“1184. Art O'Maolsechnall was slain.—Amlave, the son of Ferral O'Ruarc, King of Brefny, was slain.—Roderic O'Conor reigned again.—Donogh, the son of Donell of Meath, was slain.—Bishop Gilla Iou O'Maillin died.—Brian of Brefny, son of Flan, son of Finnachta, chief of the Clan Murchad, dies.”

The Annals of Inisfallen record great wars during this year, between the Mac Carthys and the O'Briens, “in which many of the people of Munster fell on both sides.”

“1185. War between Roderic and Conor Maenmagi; Donall O'Brien came to the aid of Roderic, and he wasted and burned the churches and country of Western Connaught, and slew many. Hearing which Cathal Carrach [son of Conor Maenmagi, and grandson of Roderic] proceeded with his sept, and burned and despoiled Killaloe(a); Roderic and

fallen state, that in 988, Brian Boroinhe passed on a political circuit by this place, and that Murrough O'Brien led a hosting hither, in 1097, and another, more formidable, immediately afterwards, through this place into Tyroconnel, in 1183. The Abbey, as in the text mentioned, was founded by the Prince of Tyrconnel. In 1290, its principal, Laurence O'Loughnan, was constituted Bishop of Kilmacduagh. In 1319, Thomas O'Donnel, being Abbot, was elevated to the see of Raphoe, as was Abbot Nicholas O'Hedian, in 1348, to that of Achonry; while in 1377, the Abbey was burned to the ground.

(a) This town, beautifully situated on the western bank of the Shannon, gives its name to the parish and diocese in which it is situated. About the middle of the sixth century St. Molua founded an Abbey here, which thenceforth became the resort of many

his son, Conor Maenmagi, concluded a peace ; Amlave O'Murdach, Bishop of Kineleogan [Tyrone], died."

pilgrims. His successor, St. Flannan, was, in 639, consecrated Bishop of Killaloe, and the cathedral of the see was re-edified, in A. D. 1000, by Brian Boroimhe, whose palace of Cencora was situated near the town. In 1054, Turlough O'Brien caused a bridge to be constructed here. In seven years afterwards Hugh O'Connor, in one of the many hostile encounters between his sept and the O'Briens, burned Killaloe ; in 1080 and 1084, it also suffered by fire. In 1086, Turlough, the son of Brian Boroimhe, died amidst the ruins of his father's palace, and was buried in the Abbey of Killaloe. In 1119, Murtough O'Brien, King of Ireland, died in penitence at this Abbey, where he also was buried ; and in the same year Turlough O'Connor led a predatory party hither, where they remained for some time, "consuming the provision there stored." In 1142, Conor O'Brien, King of Munster, died here, when Turlough O'Brien was immediately elected his successor. In 1160, a new and more stately cathedral was constructed at Killaloe, by that great patron of ecclesiastical architecture in his day, Donald, King of Limerick ; in ten years afterwards, the people of Hy-Maine devastated Ormond, and destroyed the church of Killaloe. Raymond le Gros, after his triumphant entry into Limerick, had conferences, in the immediate vicinity of this town, with Roderic, King of Connaught, and O'Brien, Prince of Thomond, both of whom, on that occasion, swore fealty to the King of England, and gave hostages in assurance of their allegiance. In 1367, when Lionel, Duke of Clarence, had, by his marriage with Elizabeth de Burgo, the daughter of the Earl of Ulster, acquired a title to a considerable portion of the country about Killaloe, the O'Briens disputed his right, and, under the conduct of a bold leader, wasted the English settlements, breaking down all their holds and fastnesses, "so in a short space," says Edmund Spenser, "he clean wiped out many great towns, as first Inchiquin, then Killaloe, before called Clareford, also Thurles, Mourne, Buttevant, and many others whose

It was in this year, amidst the dissensions or feebly-suspended hostilities of the O'Conor dynasty, that the Pope first confirmed the grant which King Henry

names I cannot remember, and of some of which there is now no memory nor sign remaining. Upon report of which there flocked to him all the sum of the Irish, out of all places, that ere long he had a mighty army; and thence marched forth into Leinster, where he wrought great outrages, wasting all the country where he went, for it was his policy to leave no hold behind him, but to make all plain and waste. On which he soon after created himself King of all Ireland, which, before him, I do not read that any did so generally but Edward le Bruce." In 1393, the Bishop of Killaloe having memorialled the King, suggesting that his see was situated amongst the Irish, and in such a state of destruction that it did not then afford the means of redeeming its temporalities from the Crown, according to the usual scale, obtained an indulgence and remission of the King's charges thereupon. In 1651, the officer and party, who had been stationed at Killaloe by Lord Clanrickard, to defend that passage of the Shannon, abandoned their post, "either from treachery or cowardice," whereupon the English burst rapidly into the western province, and all provision being made for the attempt on Limerick, Ireton commenced the siege of that city in form. In 1691, General Sarsfield, as the last effort to uphold the cause of the Stuarts, resolving to intercept the cannon and other necessities that were coming to the army of King William, then lying before Limerick, crossed the Shannon here, at the head of a select body of cavalry, and concealing himself in passes of the mountains, with which he was well acquainted, he anticipated the efforts of Sir John Lanier, whom William had despatched to convey the supplies, rushed unexpectedly upon the train, blew up the cannon, carriages, waggons, and ammunition, in one hideous explosion, that announced his success to the too tardy Lanier and his party, and thus returned triumphantly to Limerick.



had made of the Lordship of Ireland to his son John, as before related, and under this sanction his royal father, in this year, despatched him to that country. Accordingly, attended by a select and splendid suite of nobles and knights, and under the guardianship and care of Ralph Glanville, then Chief Justice of England, the youthful prince (then scarcely thirteen years of age) sailed from St. David's, with a fleet of sixty ships, and on the same day

“John Lackland came into Ireland,”

debarking, with his train, at Waterford. Giraldus Cambrensis, who had been sojourning for some time previously in Ireland, was assigned as his tutor and the historian of the expedition, to which latter duty he so devotedly applied himself, as he assures his readers, that he declined two Irish bishoprics rather than permit his attention to be withdrawn from his literary compilations; which, as contemporaneous narratives, have necessarily much interest, but too constantly betray that credulity to conceive, and that zeal to record, such slanders of the Irish nation, as the motives and recentness of the invasion rendered it politic to circulate: when he calls the Irish “*gens inhospita*,” “*gens ex bestiis solum et bestialiter vivens*,” — “*gens spurcissima, gens vitiis involutissima*” — “*gens adultera, gens incerta, gens illegitime nata et copulata, gens exlex*,” &c., the caste of the epithets betrays rancour and malevolence, utterly derogatory of an historian. The visit of the royal boy, under

such tutelage, was not calculated to recommend English government. On his arrival divers Irish lords, who had submitted to his father, came to perform the like duty to himself, but, as their demeanour appeared, to the new comers, rough and uncourtly, the youthful train, by which he was surrounded, treated them with the most insulting scorn; nor did these effeminate courtiers even regard with much respect the hardy warriors of Wales, that had thitherto maintained possession of the country. Giraldus, accordingly, distinguishes three parties in the councils of the young prince; the Normans, the English, and the Welch. "The Normans," he says, "were in first favour, the English in the second, the Welch in none." It is not to be wondered at, therefore, that John's appearance in Ireland little advanced its reduction, when they, to whom his direction was confided, were distracted by opposite opinions and angry recriminations; during his sojourn, however, many grants of lands and liberties were made in his name, as Lord of Ireland, to be enjoyed and held thenceforth, as of him and his heirs, reserving, nevertheless, generally, to the Crown of England, church lands, advowsons, bishoprics, abbeys, and places properly belonging to that Crown; a coinage of half-pence, as of his issue, also occurred while he was here, and, not to appear unmindful of the interests of religion, a provincial synod was held in Christ Church, at which the first elected English Archbishop of Dublin, John Comyn, presided; its Canons

are given in full in *Ward's Bishops*. Some castles were likewise, at this time, erected, as at Tibrad, Ardfinnan, &c.

To return to the Annals.

"Diarmit, the son of Cormac Mac Carthy, King of Desmond, was slain by the English; Maolsechnall, the son of the son of Loughlin, King of Cinel-Eoghan, was killed by the foreigners; Diarmit, the son of Turlough O'Brien, was deprived of his sight by Donald O'Brien; the kingdom of Connaught was seized by Conor Maenmagi.

"1186. Conor O'Flaherty was slain in Aran(a). Roderic

(a) The group of islands, that bears this name comprises, three in number, formerly accounted in Munster, now in Galway. Of the larger island, Aran-more, sometimes called Aran-na-naomh, i. e. "of the saints," from the numbers of holy men who were interred there, Giraldus gives a description, which is here inserted as a specimen of his credulity. "There is, on the west of Connaught, an island placed in the sea, called Aran, to which St. Brendan often had recourse; the dead bodies need not to be inhumed there, for the air is so pure that contagion, as of carrion, may not infect them; there may the son see his father, his grandfather, his great-grandfather, &c. This island is hostile to mice, for none is brought thither but either it leaps into the sea, or else being stayed, it dies presently." The immense cairns, cromlechs, and circles of stone, that are found in these islands, testify that, even in the remotest Pagan times, they were much resorted to. According to the *Leabhar Gabhala*, when the Tuatha de Dananns invaded Ireland, as hereinbefore noticed, their predecessors, the Firbolgas, fled to the Isles of Aran. In the fifth century St. Enna founded a monastery here, the succession of whose Abbots is very fully given by Colgan. Hardiman, in his "History of Galway," writing of these islands, says, that in 546, it was agreed upon between the Kings of Munster and Connaught, that the Isles of Aran were

## THE HISTORY OF IRELAND.

was driven out by Conor Maenmagi. Hugh de Lacy(a) was slain."

to acknowledge no superior, or pay chief rent to any but their native princes, in whose possession they accordingly remained for many centuries afterwards. In 1001, great contentions occurred in this island, and many were slain. In 1020 the Abbey was destroyed by fire, and in 1081 was pillaged and destroyed by the Danes. In 1123, Thady O'Mailley, tanist of Umhall, was drowned with his ship off Aran. In 1334, these isles, as well as those of Bophin, were plundered and burned by Sir John D'Arcy, then Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, who (according to Clynne) surrounded them with a fleet of fifty-six sail. In 1400 the King granted an extraordinary license to some merchants of Bristol, "that they, with as many men-at-arms as they should choose to have and provide at their own expenses, might take their course for, and pass over to the realm of Ireland, and there make war against the rebels and the King's enemies, being in the town of Galway, which in time past was in ligeance and obedience, until now of late, that by one Sir William Burgh, knight, by the assent and treason of certain traitors therein, the said town was taken in war, and also the Isles of Aran, which always be full of galleys to ensnare, capture, and plunder our liege English, to the end and effect that if the (persons licensed) shall be able, by force and armed power, to obtain and take the town and islands aforesaid, they may have, hold, and inhabit them." These islands were then, and long previously, under the dominion of the O'Brien family, nor does their possession appear to have been disturbed by the above projected transfer, or at all, until, in the sixteenth century, they were expelled by the O'Flahertys of Iar-Connaught, after which Queen Elizabeth seized upon them as the right of the Crown, and granted them to John Rawson of Athlone, on condition that he should retain constantly there twenty foot soldiers of

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(a) For notices of this celebrated Palatine and his descendants, the reader is referred to the "History of Drogheda," *Index*.

He had prepared to erect a fortress on the ruins, and with the materials, of an ancient abbey in Meath, and, although his own adherents would fain have dissuaded him from interfering with the prejudices of the people, or disregarding the veneration with which the Abbey was invested, the ill-fated Baron came forward to see his will accomplished, when one of the exasperated natives, a labourer, snatched up a deadly weapon and slew him on the spot. Thus fell De Lacy, a viceroy, on whose character the early writers have pronounced a harsh judgment, which the historians of subsequent centuries have not sufficiently reversed. Few governors better deserved the gratitude of the Irish, while he should have been not less recommended to the English government, for the honest zeal with which he promoted its true interest. He presided over the destinies of this country as the lord, not the tyrant, the guardian rather than the ruler. Instead of pride, avarice, and rapacity, the too frequent characteristics of those

the English nation. In 1650 they surrendered to the Parliamentary general, and were subsequently granted to Erasmus Smith, who, in 1657, conveyed them to trustees, as comprising 1467*A.* of profitable land, in aid of his projected schools; he, however, afterwards sold them to Richard Butler, who was thereupon ennobled by the title of Earl of Aran, and whose right thereto was confirmed by the Act of Explanation. On the surrender of Galway to King William, a garrison was sent to Aran, and a barrack built there, in which soldiers were stationed for many years. After sundry mesne assignments, the inheritance of the islands became vested in the Digby family.

then appointed to represent English monarchy, his government exhibited, almost throughout, moderation, humanity, and justice; then, as Doctor Hanmer happily expresses himself, "the priest kept his church, the soldier his garrison, and the ploughman followed the plough."

"The city of Jerusalem was taken by the Saracens with the cross of the Lord; Christian O'Conarchy(*a*), Bishop of Lismore, and Legate of all Ireland, died in Christ; Murrough O'Kelly, King of Hy-Maine, was slain; O'Maoludar, Bishop of Clonmacnois, died; the Citadel of the Rock on Lough-Ke was burned; Maolissa O'Carrol, Bishop of Orgiel, [Clogher], died; Murrough, the son of Teigue, of the Clan Maolruana, King of Moylurg, and Arthur, the son of Taich-lech, the son of Conor Mac Diarmit, were slain; victory obtained over John de Courcy(*b*) at Tegas, where sixteen

(*a*) He had been for years a monk of Clarevall, under St. Bernard, who appointed him the first Abbot of Mellefont, from which situation he was raised to the see of Lismore, and to the Legateship.

(*b*) The pedigree of this warrior is, in the Books of Peerage, deduced in the male line from the House of Lorrain, through Charlemagne, and in the female from the Dukes of Normandy. Robert de Courci, a younger son of this stock, accompanied William the Conqueror, and fought at Hastings, whereupon he acquired large grants in Somersetshire and Oxfordshire. His descendant, the above John, having served Henry the Second in England and Gascony, was sent into Ireland to assist Fitz-Adelm in the government of that country, and in the same year, having in his train the Audleys, Gernons, Clintons, Russels, &c., he invaded Ulster. His career in this country has been sufficiently developed in other parts of this work, and it may be only here

English Barons, with others, were slain, and the rest returned to their own settlement with great confusion."

King Henry, being made sensible of the demerits of his son's nine months' infatuated career in Ireland, had recalled him, and appointed this John de Courcy to direct the government of the country. Fearless as was that nobleman, he entered on the office with the frightful results of Prince John's visit before his eyes, a prospect of dissensions and defeats, treacherous friends and triumphant foes, disorganized armies, dissociated communities, and despairing allies. The resentments, which had been recently excited in the minds of the Irish, were so great, that he was, for some time, obliged to act on the defensive in his administration; the successes, however, of Conor Maenmagi over Connaught, seemed likely to endanger the English interest in the other provinces, and, confident that the crisis was come, when he must achieve some exploit worthy of his former reputation, he led his army into the northern part of Connaught, burning in his way the Abbey of Ballysadare. With more chivalry than discretion he pursued his course, without due investigation of the country, when he was attacked by Conor, and, unable to defend his post, was forced to retire with precipitation, and evacuate the province, as noticed in the text.

added, that, in 1210 he died, according to some, without issue, but Lodge somewhat doubtfully suggests that he had a son, from whom descended the Barons of Kinsale.

"Murrrough, the son of Ferral, and Maolsechnal, the son of Matudan, with his brother and many others, were slain."

"1187. O'Terlenan, Bishop of Conmacne, i. e. of Ardagh, rested in peace; Rostel (Russel) Pitun was buried; the Bishop of Cork died; Conor Maenmagi, chief King of Connaught, and of western Ireland, was slain by his own sept; Conor, the son of Diarmit, was slain; Culean, the son of Claenglasi a Culean, was slain; Murrrough O'Flanagan(*a*), leader of the Clan Cathil, dies.

"1188. The ship of Cathal Crowdearg [i. e. Cathal O'Conor of "the Red Hand"] sunk, in which thirty-six men perished; Imrechtach O'Radive, leader of the Clan Tumultagh, and Conor, son of Cathal, son of . . . . Murtough, son of Conor

(*a*) From this ancient Irish sept a large district of the County Roscommon took its name. So early as in the year 981, on the first use of surnames, the death of Conang O'Flanagan, an ecclesiastical dignitary of Armagh, is mentioned by the Four Masters, as is that of Murtough O'Flanagan, chief reader of Armagh, in two years afterwards. In 997 Gilla Phadruic O'Flanagan, chief of Teffia, was slain, and in 1005, Eochaid O'Flanagan, an historian of some note, died, as did Columba O'Flanagan, Abbot of the monastery of Columb-kill in 1016. In 1035, Iarnan O'Flanagan, styled "the hunter of holy men," was, while devastating Delvin, slain in vengeance for his impiety. In the following year Niall O'Flanagan, chief of Teffia, fell by the hands of his own sept. In 1153, Flan O'Flanagan died chief of Teffia, and in 1173, a successor of his in that chieftainry, Sitric O'Flanagan, was slain by the people of East Meath. In 1232 Con O'Flanagan founded the Augustinian Priory of Kilmore, in the County Roscommon, and in 1246, Donell O'Flanagan died Abbot of Cong. In 1303 Donat O'Flanagan, being Abbot of Boyle, was raised to the see of Elphin, and in 1458, Bartholomew O'Flanagan, Prior of Devenish, was promoted to the bishopric of Derry, where the notices of this family must necessarily conclude.



son of Diarmit and Dubessa, daughter of Diarmit, the son of Teigue, die; Mora, daughter of Turlough O'Conor, dies; Alena, daughter of Regan(a), dies.

" 1189. Roderic O'Conor leaves Connaught, and proceeds to Cinell-Conell(b); Bishop Echlegend, the son of Maelchearain, died."

Immediately on the death of Conor Maenmagi, as suggested by the Four Masters, the septs, who had espoused his part against his father, returned to their allegiance to Roderic, who received their hostages on the plains of Magh-Ai. The object of this his journey into Tyrconnel, at this juncture, appears to have been to concert a coalition with the chiefs of the north against the English.

To this year is to be properly referred the death of Henry the Second; he expired at Chinon, in Normandy, and, doubtless, had that wisdom, by which his government was distinguished in other countries, been freely exercised in Ireland, that island would have early reason to hail the introduction of English dominion. Unfortunately, however, the perplexities, in which his reign was elsewhere involved, led him to the adoption of a political system there, that greatly derogated from his renown and the interest of the empire. Instead of conciliating the affections, and

(a) Possibly she was the daughter of that Regan, who was the secretary of Diarmit Mac Murrough. An account of the Invasion, printed in *Harris's Hibernica*, is attributed to him.

(b) Afterwards styled Tyrconnel, once the principality of the O'Donnells, and now known as the County of Donegal.

regulating the passions of its inhabitants, his measures were, from a fatal necessity, too frequently influenced by jealousies of the growing powers of his Viceroys, and of the Barons there, whom his policy had endowed with palatinates and honours, which the natives could not but contemplate as wrested from their immemorial possessions and power, and, as it were, reared upon the ruins of Irish society.

“ 1190. Taichlech O'Dowda, King of Hy-Fiachra, was slain; Hugh O'Flinn dies.”

The Four Masters afford, in their notices of this year, additional evidence of the inveterate disunion that prevailed in the family of the unfortunate Roderic. “ A conference,” say they, “ was held, to conclude a peace between Cathal Crovdearg (O'Conor) and Cathal Carrach (O'Conor), his grandsons, at Clonfert Brendan. The Siol Murray came to the meeting, together with the successor of St. Patrick (Archbishop Thomas O'Conor), Conor Mac Dermot, and Aireachtach O'Rody, but they could not reconcile them; O'Conor and the Siol Murray came to Clonmacnois that night, and early on the following morning they embarked on the Shannon, and sailed into Lough Ree: a great storm arose on the lake, by which their vessels were separated, and the boat, in which O'Conor sailed, became unmanageable, in consequence of the violence of the storm, and was swamped, so that all perished, with the exception of Cathal Crovdearg and six others. Among those

drowned were Aireachtach O'Rody; Conor, son of Cathal; Conor and Aulave, the sons of Hugh Mac Airechtach; O'Maolbrenan, the son of O'Mannachain (Monahan), and many others."

" 1191. Cathal O'Dur, the son of Mac Carthy, was slain; Dervorgilla, the daughter of Murrough O'Melaghlin, died in Mellefont; Hugh, the son of Maelbrenan, chief of the Clan Conor, was slain; the monastery of Iniscloghran(a) was devastated by Gilbert Mac Costello(b)."

The Annals of Inisfallen commemorate a great storm in this year.

" 1192. Donell, son of Turlough O'Brien, King of Munster, died; Murtough, the son of the son of Connor, who

(a) An island in Lough Ree, one of the noble expansions of the Shannon, where a monastery was founded by St. Dermot, about the beginning of the sixth century. In 998 it was laid waste by Brian Boromhe, and was again sacked by the people of Munster in 1010 and 1016. It was also plundered in 1050 and 1087. In 1136, Hugh O'Finn, Bishop of Ardagh, died here, as did, in 1141, Gildas, chief of the O'Ferrals of Annaly (at a great age), and his son Murtough in nine years after. In 1155 the Abbey was burned. In 1160 Gilla O'Dunan, principal of the schools of this Abbey, died here, and in 1174 Rory O'Carrol, King of Ely, was slain by his own brother in the midst of this island. Such is a brief notice of the leading events connected with this Abbey, antecedent to the above annal.

(b) This family name, originally "De Angulo," was corrupted into Nangle, in Meath, where its chief enjoyed, with large landed possessions, the palatine title of Baron of Navan; on their emigration to Connaught, the period of which is hereafter suggested, the name was altered to Mac Costello, with a similar title from the Barony of Costello.

was the son of Donald Carty, was deprived of sight by Murtough, the son of Donald. An army, with Gilbert Mac Costello, went to the falls of Easroa, and they returned thence without spoil."

The Annalists of Inisfallen also record a synod held at this time in Dublin, which was attended by the magnates of Ireland, and where Cardinal Vivian presided, as legate appointed by the Pope, at the instance of Richard the First, being, perhaps, the only occasion in which that monarch, during a reign of chivalrous fanaticism, affected to regard the interests of Ireland, or to interfere with the grant of its lordship to his brother John. The above annalists likewise notice great depredations by the foreigners over Thomond, and the erection of fortresses throughout Munster.

"1193. Florence, the son of Riagan O'Maolruana, the third Abbot of Boyle, and afterwards Bishop of Elphin, died in Christ."

In the following year, say the Four Masters, died Donough O'Brien, King of Munster, "a glowing torch of peace and war, and the brilliant star of hospitality and generosity;" a prince, writes Moore, "whose mixture of warlike and religious propensities rendered him popular alike among the laity and the clergy of the country." He was one of the first of the native chieftains who, prepossessed by the demeanour, and confiding in the promises of Henry, tendered, in the distracted state of Ireland, his submis-

sion to that potentate, but who, when he failed to find wisdom and goodness in the councils of his deputies, opposed their power with efforts not less vigorous than unceasing; yet in the short intervals of truce, his attention was ever directed to works of piety and civilization. Besides several monastic and conventual establishments, Limerick and Cashel are indebted to him for their respective cathedrals; the palace of his royal ancestors having been bestowed upon the Church for the site of the former structure, while the latter was erected immediately adjoining the beautiful chapel which his predecessor, King Cormac, had, as before mentioned, founded on the Rock of Cashel.

“ In the year of the Lord’s Incarnation, 1195, in that from the beginning of the world 6394, Cathal, the son of Diarmit, came from Munster to the principality of the isles of Chailigi (in Lough Mask), slew many on his route, and afterwards made a peace.”

This invasion of Connaught was with the object, as shewn by the Four Masters, of seizing upon the fleet of Cathal O’Conor (styled *Crovdearg*, i. e. “ of the Red Hand”), who had provoked this aggression by an immediately previous attack on Munster, which he desolated as far as Emly and Cashel, “ burning four great castles, and several others of minor importance.” The Annals of Inisfallen notice a most abundant harvest of that season.

“ Donell O’Finn(*a*), comorb of Clonfert Brendan, died.

(*a*) The sept of the O’Finns is early found settled in Connaught

"1196. Slaughter of the Clan Eolais (Mac Ranells), by Ualgarg O'Ruarc; Roderic O'Flaherty [Lord of West Connaught], came into the camp of Cathal Crovdearg, and peace was made between them, by the mediation of the Vicar of Patrick [i. e. the Archbishop of Armagh]; Gillarud, the son of the son of Raynaill [chief of Muintir Eolais] was slain; Hugh O'Ferral was slain."

He was the lord of Muintir-Annaly, and was, as related by the Four Masters, treacherously killed by the sons of Sitric O'Quinn.

"Mathgamain, the son of Conor Maonmagi, was slain by an archer of the family of Donnell O'Morda (O'More), and in the same hour Donnell O'Morda fell by the hand of Cathal Carrach,"

who was the brother of Mathgamain. The Annals of Inisfallen add, that in this year Russel, with a great hosting of the English, and the forces of John de Courcy, invaded Kinel-Conell, but were successfully opposed by Flaherty O'Maoldora, king of that sept, who regained the spoils they had taken, and slew their leader, Russel. These chronicles also state an expulsion of Gilbert de Nangle from Meath by the

and Munster. Amongst the notices of their family, antecedent to the above, the Four Masters record the death of Cormac O'Finn, Bishop of Munster. In 1073 died Cuchollach O'Finn, chief of the people of Ross, as did, in 1087, another Cormac O'Finn, chief lecturer of Dalcassia. In 1109 Murrough O'Melaghlin plundered the people of Ross, slaying their chief, O'Finn, even though then in sanctuary. In 1132, Cuchollach O'Finn died Prefect of Kilcolgan, and in four years afterwards, Hugh O'Finn, Bishop of Brefny, died in Inis-Cloghran.

Viceroy, with a seizure of his castles and lands, which seems to have induced the migration of the branch of that family, which, settling in the barony of Costello, took the Irish name of Mac Costello. The Annals of the Four Masters add, that in this year Murcertach O'Loughlin, "Lord of Kinel-Owen, and heir presumptive to the throne of Ireland, the tower of bravery and feats of arms of Leath Cuinn, the demolisher of the cities and castles of the English, and founder of churches and pleasant sanctuaries, was slain by Donogh O'Cahan, after they had sworn by the three shrines, and the canon of St. Patrick, to be faithful to him; his remains were conveyed to Derry-Columb-Kille, and interred there with honours and solemnity." According to the same authority Roderic Mac Dunsleve invaded the territories now known as Armagh and Tyrone, but the natives, rising up against him, defeated him with great slaughter. In this battle, they say, twelve sons of the nobles and chiefs of Connaught were slain, with a great number of the common soldiery. They also state, that Donal Mac Carthy, at this time, defeated the English of Limerick and Munster with dreadful slaughter, drove them out of Limerick, and vanquished them in two other engagements.

"1197. Rory O'Flaherty was taken by Cathal of the Red Hand; Flaherty O'Maoldora, King of Kinel-Eogan, dies,"

"equal in heroism," say the Four Masters, "to Conall (a much extolled chief of the Red Branch Knights

of Ulster), in valour to Cuchullin, in hospitality to Guaire, and in success to Mac Lughach."

"Gilla Sronmael O'Doherty(a) ruled Conell, and after one month he, with many others, was slain by John de Cuirt

(a) This clan, like that of the O'Donnells, and several other illustrious families of the north, claim descent from Conall Gulban, the son of Nial of the Nine Hostages; their ancient settlement was over the district that lies between Loughs Foyle and Swilly, and the Atlantic, now known as the barony of Inisowen. In 1194, an Abbey was founded for Cistercians, at Hillfothuir, in the County Donegal, by the O'Doherty, as a filial establishment to Easroa. In 1202, Donald Carragh O'Doherty died chief professor in Armagh. In 1342 died Donell O'Doherty, styled "chief of Ardmiodhair, and of the cantred of Tir-Enda, a man abounding in hospitality and valour," and in 1359, John O'Doherty, chief of Ardmiodhair, was killed at Ballyshannon. In 1407, Owen O'Doherty, heir to the chieftainship of Ardmiodhair, died, as did, in 1413, Conor O'Doherty, styled "chief of Ardmiodhair, and Lord of Inisowen." In 1454, Donell O'Donell, chief of Tyrconnel, was taken prisoner by the O'Doherty, the lineal descendant of whom was, in 1548, one of the confederates with Con O'Neill against English government. In 1588, Sir William Fitz-Williams being Viceroy, imprisoned Sir John Doherty, and other Irish leaders; he was then the Lord of Inisowen, which title and territory he was declared to have forfeited in 1599, for high treason; it was, however, re-granted to his son, Sir Cahir O'Doherty, who also rebelled, when the land, having again vested in the Crown, was given to Lord Arthur Chichester of Belfast. The only notice, that can here be added to this necessarily brief sketch, is that of a monument in the Franciscan church at Lovaine, commemorative of the "daughter and sister of the dynasts of Inisowen," first married to Caffry O'Donell, cousin of the Prince of Tyrconnel, and, and afterwards to Owen O'Neill, commander of the Catholic army in Ulster.



[i. e. John de Courcy]; Connor Mac Dermot, King of Moylurg and Arteagh, died at Boyle, in the habit of a monk; Hugh, the son of [Brian O'Conor, styled of] Brefny, slain."

In this year, add the Annalists of Inisfallen, the English led a hosting to Durlas (Thurles), and burned many churches and monasteries; while the Four Masters record a not less nefarious instance of sacrilege perpetrated in Ulster, where "Mac Etigh, one of the people of Keenaght, robbed the altar of the great church of Derry, and carried away with him the four most valuable cups in Ireland, which were called the Mac Riabhach, the Mac Solas, the cup of O'Maoldora, and the crooked goblet of O'Doherty; he broke them to pieces, and took off their valuable ornaments. In three days after the robbery, these precious ornaments and the robber were discovered; he was hanged by Flaherty O'Maoldora, at the cross of executions, to avenge St. Columb-kille for the profanation of his altar."

"1198. Rory O'Conor, supreme monarch of all Ireland, dies."

At the advanced age of eighty-two he closed his career in that monastery of Cong, to which the rebellion of his sons had compelled him to retreat, but was buried, according to the other Annals, at Clonmacnois. He had outlived his friends and his contemporaries, the allegiance and veneration even of his own family; the events of the day brought little interest to him; there were none, by whose partici-

pation a prosperous vicissitude would have been welcomed, while his adversities were left to prey upon himself alone. In such a mood, retirement to a monastery was the last refuge for consolation. "How much the fate of an entire nation may depend on the domestic relations of its ruling family," writes Moore, "is strikingly exemplified in the instances both of Roderic and Henry, whose struggles and contentions with their own children gave a direction to their public measures, of which the subsequent history of both countries has deeply felt the influence. Had not Henry been called away by a dark conspiracy within his own family, from applying his powerful mind to the conquest and settlement of Ireland, far different might have been the destiny of that ill-starred land. Had the house of Roderic, on the other hand, united in the defence of their rights, and thus set an example of zealous co-operation to others, a more healthful confidence in themselves and their rulers, might have been awakened in the people of Ireland; a brave resistance would have won from the conqueror respect and forbearance towards the vanquished, and, at least, the disgrace of unnatural treachery would not have been added to that of insignificance and weakness." Immediately upon his decease, hostilities commenced between his grandsons, which the Annal of the following year shews but doubtfully adjusted.

"1199. Peace made by Cathal Carrach, and by Cathal of

the Red Hand; Cathal Carrach banished from his territory, and his lands wasted by Flaherty."

There were great wars also in Munster, between the English and the natives, while John de Courcy's depredations continued unceasingly in Ulster. The state of Connaught was yet more embarrassing: Cathal Croidéarg had been driven from its government by Cathal Carrach, whereupon "Hugh O'Neill," say the Four Masters, "marched his forces to assist the former, and was joined by the men of Moy Ith and of Orgiel, they went as far as Teach Baoithin [Taughboyne, in the Barony of Boyle] whence they returned to Ballysadare, where they were overtaken by Cathal Carrach, with the chiefs of Connaught, and William Burke at the head of the English of Limerick; a battle ensued, in which the northern forces were defeated, and O'Henehy, Lord of Oriel, and many others, fell. John de Courcy, also," they continue, "at the head of the English of Ulidia, joined by the son of Hugh de Lacy, at the head of the English of Meath, marched their forces to relieve Cathal Croidéarg, and arrived at Kilmacduagh; Cathal Carrach, at the head of the people of Connaught, proceeded thither and gave them battle, when the English were defeated with such slaughter, that, although their original force consisted of five battalions, only two survived the battle. They fled, but were closely pursued from the field as far as Rinduin, at Lough Ree, where De Courcy was hemmed in, and a great many of the English slain; many others were drowned, for they

had no means of escaping but by crossing the lake eastward in boats."

"1200. Donough Uaitheach, son of Roderic, was slain [by the English of Limerick]; victory won at Athaboirn, over Cathal Crowdearg, and slaughter of the people of Connaught, there fell Roderic O'Flaherty, with many others. Victory of Uchbar. William Burc comes into Connaught to aid the cause of Cathal Carrach, and they wasted all the ecclesiastical and lay property in Connaught; and they did not leave a church or an altar of monk or canon that they did not despoil, so that never before did the people of Connaught experience such a visitation of famine and nakedness."

The last-mentioned Cathal had, under the sanction of such his friends and allies, assumed the sovereignty of Connaught, and driven his namesake of the Red Hand into Ulster, where he first sought aid from the dynast of Fermanagh, and afterwards passed to the residence of John de Courcy, with whom he confirmed his league of friendship. In this year King John granted to William de Braosa the honour of Limerick, as theretofore granted by Henry the Second to Philip de Braosa, uncle of said William, at a service of sixty knights.

"1201. Roderic, the son of Dunsleve, King of Ulster, was slain; battle of Culicnave, fought by Cathal of the Red Hand against Diarmid, the son of Conor; another battle against Tomaltach in Tir-ailell(a), until he carried

(a) Still known as the barony of Tyrarrell, County of Sligo. Catholicus O'Duffy, Archbishop of Tuam, in this notice mentioned, has been often herein before introduced, as the confidential favourite of King Roderic, whom he did not long survive.

off many oxen with him; Catholicus O'Duffy, Archbishop of Connaught, rested in Christ; victory of Easadara(a), against the people of Fermanagh, and against the O'Neills and the people of Cinel Eogan and Cinel Conaill; there Niall, the son of Echnich, King of Fermanagh, was slain,

(a) Or Bally-casadara, now called Ballysadare, is situated near Sligo, at the Boyle side, and takes its name from the succession of falls, over which the Unicon river carries a portion of the waters of Lough Arrow to the sea. In the seventh century, St. Fechin founded a monastery here for Canons Regular. It had been twice, previous to the above date, viz., in 1179, and 1188, devastated, but was, in the beginning of the thirteenth century, restored, and so existed until the general Dissolution. In 1285, Adam Cusack, an adventurer, who attempted the conquest of the northern parts of Connaught, was here defeated by Magnus O'Connor, on which occasion, Colin, brother of said Adam, and many others of his adherents, were slain. In 1444, amongst the dignitaries who went, with the Bishop of Elphin, on a pilgrimage to Rome, was the principal of the house of Ballysadare, styled Abbot and Bishop. In a century afterwards, its Abbot, Conat O'Shiel, "Chaplain to Magnus O'Donnell," was advanced to the Bishopric of Elphin. In 1691, on the occasion of King William's adherents designing to secure Sligo to their interest, "Lieutenant-Colonel Ramsay, with his party," writes Story "marched to Ballysadare bridge, where he found old Sir Teigue O'Regan, with eighty horse, and about two hundred foot, very advantageously posted to hinder our passage that way, but our party attacking them, they gave ground after some time, and Sir Francis Hamilton, with some of the militia, and a troop of Colonel Wynne's dragoons coming in the mean time, the enemy was pursued almost to the fort of Sligo, about thirty of them killed, and nineteen taken prisoners, amongst whom were two lieutenants, an ensign, and the storekeeper of Sligo. Sir Teigue himself narrowly escaping, for his mean appearance was the reason that a lieutenant was seized instead of him."

with many others. Cathal of the Red Hand, thereupon proceeded, with his men, to the islands of Lough Mask. In this victory against Niall, the church of Easadara was laid waste. — Tomaltach O'Conor(a), Primate of all Ireland, rested in Christ, and was buried at Mellefont. — Victory of Arda Ladrand against John de Courci and Hugh de Lacy, where four barons of the nobles were, with many others, slain; afterwards they returned to Rinduin(b).” \* \* \*

*[Here, by the loss of three leaves in the original manuscript, an hiatus occurs of twenty-five years, the next remaining leaf commencing in the middle of the notices of 1225. The intermediate events of interest are here supplied from the other native Annalists.]*

The Annals of the Four Masters further relate, at the year 1201, that “ John de Monte Celion, a cardinal, came to Ireland from Rome, as the Pope's legate, and convened a great synod at Dublin, which was

(a) This dignitary was brother of King Roderic, and it is worthy of observation, that being, as he was, Archbishop of Armagh, he is, at the early period of this compilation, styled Primate of all Ireland.

(b) Rinduin, or Randon, afterwards more commonly called St. John's, from the establishment of Knights Hospitallers here, founded in the time of King John, and which was subsequently most liberally endowed by Philip Nangle, is situated on the banks of Lough Ree, near Athlone. In 1226, the English erected a castle here, which, with the town, was plundered in 1237, by Phelim O'Conor. In 1277, the castle was destroyed by Thomas de Clare, nor was it afterwards thoroughly repaired until the commencement of the fourteenth century; but little now remains of either castle, town, or commandery.

attended by the Bishops, the Abbots, and the clergy of the various orders, as also many of the nobility of Ireland. At this convention, sundry observances between clergy and laity were satisfactorily arranged. In a fortnight afterwards, the Cardinal convened a synod of the clergy and nobility of Connaught, at Tuam, where the necessary regulations were enacted." These Annalists also say, that in this year, Cathal Croidéarg, and William Burke (who had, on this occasion, espoused his cause), at the head of the English and Irish forces, marched from Limerick to Tuam, whence he went to Oran, to Elphin, to the rock of Lough Ke, and finally to the monastery of Boyle, where they took up their quarters, until soon afterwards, encountering the army of Cathal Carrach, that prince was slain in the conflict, "which was attributed to the miracles of God, and the intervention of St. Ciaran." After this, Cathal Croidéarg, and William Burke, marched with their forces through Moylurg and Magh-Ai, to West Connaught, and to Cong of St. Fechin, where they spent their Easter, and where, about the same time, Catholicus O'Duffy, Archbishop of Tuam, died. De Burgo had, soon afterwards, a royal grant of a very considerable tract in Connaught, on tenure of military service; in the following year he devastated Clonmacnois and the churches of Connaught, and soon after died, an object, say the Annalists, of the especial vengeance of Providence.

In 1203, many of the English were slain at Moin-

more, by the Mac Carthys; while the Four Masters record, at this period, a singular instance of ecclesiastical interference by the clergy of Ireland. "A monastery," say these Annalists, "was unlawfully erected by [a certain] Ceallach, in the centre of Iona, in opposition to the people of that place, and he did great damage to the town; the clergy of the North of Ireland thereupon assembled together, for the purpose of going to Iona, namely, Florent Carvallon, Bishop of Tyrone, Maolissa O'Dery, Bishop of Tyrconnel (Raphoe), Amalgaid O'Fergail, Abbot of Derry, Ainmere O'Coffey, with many of the people of Derry and of the northern clergy, when they proceeded to Iona, and pulled down the before-mentioned church, in accordance with the ecclesiastical laws, and Amalgaid O'Fergail was elected Abbot of Iona by the suffrages of the Scots and Irish." In 1204, a battle was fought between John de Courcy and Hugh de Lacy, wherein the former was taken prisoner, a great many of his men slain, and himself compelled to surrender his lands and castles for his ransom. His estates, with the lordship of Ulster, were thereupon granted, by royal patent, to Hugh de Lacy. About the same time King John directed his letter missive to the Prelates, Priors, and Abbots of Ireland, requesting a subsidy in aid of the war in France, while in the following year, the same monarch issued a mandate (*Rymer's Fœdera*, new ed. vol. i. p. 91), enjoining his Irish justiciary to take immediate steps for enforcing from the "King of



Connaught" (Cathal Croidéarg), a surrender of two-thirds of that province, which had been guaranteed to Roderic by the treaty of 1775; it must, however, be admitted, that treaty did not, in express terms bind Henry, or his successors, to recognize the descendants of Roderic as Kings of Connaught in similar succession. By this mandate the English King likewise directed, that the two-thirds, the surrender of which was so required, should be laid out by the Deputy, as most serviceable for the English interest, by comprising harbours, towns, and fortresses, and that the King of Connaught should thenceforth be permitted to retain the remaining third as his inheritance under the crown of England, and subject to a yearly rent of 100 marks, terms which the heir of Roderic was fain to accept.—(See *ante*, vol. i. p. 182.)

In 1206, Hugh De Lacy, the younger son of the first Palatine of Meath, in the assertion of his before-mentioned title to the Palatinate of Ulster, marched, as recorded by the Four Masters, into the heart of that province, with the English of Meath and Leinster. "He burned," they add, "some churches, and the corn of the country, but obtained neither hostages nor cattle from Hugh O'Neill in that expedition. The same party marched into Kenaught, when they burned all the churches in that territory, and carried away an immense prey of cattle," a desolation which, with other similar sacrilegious acts, compelled the Archbishop of Armagh to pass over to King John, "on behalf of the Church of Ireland, and to

complain against the English in his country." In the following year, King John confirmed to William Marshal, who, as before mentioned (*ante*, vol. i. p. 100), had married the heiress of Strongbow, the lordship of Leinster, excepting only the cross-lands, or lands subject to ecclesiastical jurisdiction, to hold same at the service of three knights; while William de Barry, at the same time, passed patent for a large portion of the present County of Cork. The Annals of the Four Masters record "wars" in this year, between the English settlers of Leinster and Munster, the former headed by William Marshal, the latter by Meyler Fitz-Henry (the natural son of Henry the First, and one of the most distinguished Barons of the period), who had, two years previously, taken forcible possession of Limerick; Hugh de Lacy espoused the part of the Earl Marshal, and those allies ultimately drove Meyler, who had invaded Leinster, out of that Palatinate. The same historians mention, that in this year, the remains of King Roderic O'Connor were exhumed, and deposited in a stone coffin, or shrine, at which time, his grandson, Cathal Crovdearg, expelled Hugh O'Flaherty from Western Connaught, and gave that territory to his own son Hugh. In 1208, the Masters detail feuds between the O'Neills and O'Donnells, and devastations of their respective territories, until at last, "a peace was concluded between them, and they entered into an alliance against the English and Irish, who would oppose them." After this, King John issued an ordinance (of record

in the Tower of London), whereby he declared to his subjects in Ireland, that, as he was bound to maintain and protect their rights, and preserve and defend those of his crown, so he wishes they should not be ruled but by law and judgment, nor arbitrarily deprived of their goods, nor unjustly disseised of their freeholds, nor impleaded for that purpose by the writ of any one but himself or his Justiciary; wherefore he charges them, on their fealty, not to answer in any court respecting freeholds, unless by the writ and precept of him or his Justiciary, before whom only, or the justices sent to maintain right amongst them, they should answer any pleas of the Crown, &c.; and His Majesty thereby assures them, that if any one disturb them to the contrary of this ordinance, on going to his Justiciary, he will assist them with all his power. Moreover, the king prohibited the circulation of any other money, than that which was directed to be current in this country. In 1210, this monarch made his second visit to Ireland, landing, with a numerous army, at Waterford. The Annals of the Four Masters, while they record this event at 1209, and state Dublin as the place of debarkation, give the following succinct account of his progress through the country. " John, King of England, sailed for Ireland, with a large fleet, and landed at Dublin, where he rested for some time after his voyage; he then proceeded to Tiprad Uiltain, where Cathal Croidearg O'Connor came to meet him. Walter de Lacy was expelled from Meath

into England. The King, accompanied by his nobles, proceeded to Carrickfergus, and expelled Hugh de Lacy from Ulidia into England. Hugh O'Neill attended the King's summons, but he returned without making submission. The King besieged Carrickfergus, which surrendered, whereupon he garrisoned it with his own forces. O'Connor returned home, and the King of England next proceeded to Rath-Guaire (Rathwyre), where O'Connor a second time waited upon him. The King demanded his son as a hostage, in confirmation of his fealty. O'Connor would not, however, consent to give his son, but gave four of his chiefs in preference; namely, Conor Godh O'Hara, Lord of Leney, Dermot, son of Conor O'Maolruana, Lord of Moylurg, Fion O'Carma-cain, and Aireachtach Mac Donogh, a young prince of O'Connor's friends. The King returned to England and brought the hostages with him." They were, however, soon afterwards restored. It may be here added, that in the course of his expeditions, the monarch sojourned for two days within the walls of the ancient borough of Drogheda, when he gave to its corporation the privileges of Bristol, and confirmed many of his father's previous Irish charters, as well as others of the Palatine Hugh de Lacy.

In 1210, the Annals of the Four Masters record great wars between King John and the people of Wales, by reason of which he commanded the Bishop of Norwich, whom he had left Lord Justice of Ireland, to come over to his aid, with the English

nobles and leaders, then in that country. On the Bishop's departure, according to these Annalists, "Richard Tuyt(a) was appointed Lord Justice over

(a) This illustrious individual had theretofore received other proofs of the confidence, which preceding monarchs reposed in him. Having come over in the suite of the Earl of Chepstow, he was early selected by Hugh de Lacy as one, whose character would maintain the marches of his Palatinate, even in their most advanced and assailable situation; he accordingly received from that nobleman an extensive tract in the ancient district of Tefia, the most westward portion of Meath, including Sonnagh, Imper, &c., which he enjoyed with the title of Baron of Moyashell, and transmitted to his posterity. Ware has not his name in the list of the chief governors of Ireland; but it is too particularly recounted in the above Annal to be doubted. On his death, as above, he was interred at Larha, near Granard, a house of his own foundation. To his son Richard de Tuyt, the younger, the custody of the castle of Clonmacnois was committed, by Henry the Third, in 1224; and in twenty years afterwards, this Richard had a royal summons to do military service against the Scots. His issue male failed in the second generation of descent, when his brother Maurice, the second son of Richard the elder, continued the line through his son John, whose eldest son Sir Richard, sat in a Parliament of 1310, as a Palatine knight, and had other especial summonses, both parliamentary and military, directed to him. In 1318, he was engaged in the sanguinary field of Faughart, where the aspiring Bruce closed his wild career. In six years afterwards, Sir Richard was summoned to the defence of the Duchy of Aquitaine; and in 1325, he sat as a Peer in Parliament, as did his son and heir, Sir John, in that held at Dublin, in 1333. The eldest son of this John, another Richard, died without issue male, when the family estates, which were, on an Inquisition *post mortem*, found to comprise nine manors, and about forty other extensive townlands, vested in his brother Thomas de Tuyt, as heir male, and who was summoned as a knight to various

Ireland, and shortly after proceeded to Athlone, in order to send his kinsmen to guard Limerick, Waterford, and Wexford, while he himself should govern Dublin and Athlone. During his stay at Athlone, some of the stones of the castle fell on his head, and killed him on the spot, together with his priest, and several others of his party." The Annals of the immediately succeeding years offer little of general interest. At 1211, the Masters record the founding of the castle of Clones, the temporary expulsion of the English from Delvin by Cormac O'Melaghlin, a descendant of its ancient rulers; and the deaths of two daughters of Roderic O'Conor, one having been a nun. In 1212, "the English of Munster marched with their forces to Roscrea, where they erected a castle, and from thence they proceeded to Killaghaidh, where they were overtaken by Murtough Mac

Parliaments and great councils. His eldest son was John, and so through an alternate succession of the names of John and Thomas, the family estates descended, until John de Tuyt, in the seventh degree of descent, died in 1577, leaving Oliver his heir at law, who was created a Baronet in 1622, and whose successive lineal heirs male have since enjoyed the title; but from the devotion of his descendants to the Stuart family, they lost, by confiscation, most extensive tracts in the Counties of Longford, Meath, and Westmeath, on which they appear to have erected no less than forty castles. Sir Mark Anthony Henry Tuite is the present Baronet, but the inheritance of the ancient estate of Sonnagh vested, under family settlement, in his cousin Hugh Morgan Tuite, one of the present representatives of the County Westmeath in Parliament.

Brien and his forces, who opposed them in a battle." In 1213, " Hugh O'Neill defeated the English, with dreadful slaughter; and on the same day burned Carlingford, sparing neither persons nor property." The mutual destruction of the chief Munster septs, each by the other, fill the narrative of the years 1214 and 1215, with the addition, that in the latter year, " the foreigners aided both sides, insomuch that they, by degrees, acquired great possessions in Munster, especially in Desmond, made great conquests of lands, and built castles and strong forts for themselves against the Irish." Cathal O'Connor Crovdearg, described in the patent as King of Connaught, was, at this time, by royal mandate to the Deputy of Ireland, and the other officials there, taken under the especial protection of King John, who, at the same time, directed his Irish Justiciary to require all barons, knights, &c., and others holding lands upon the marches, to take out confirmations of their estates within a certain day, or otherwise that the Viceroy should seize upon them for the crown, to be granted to others, who should take out proper patents thereof (*Rot. Claus. in Turr. Lond.*)

In 1216 died King John, the letter of his successor to his Justiciary, Geoffrey de Marisco, acquainting him with the interment of his royal father at Worcester, and his own coronation at Gloucester, is of record in the Tower of London, and in it Henry, in reference to a representation which had been made to him, as to the policy of sending the Queen his

mother, or his brother, to conduct the government of Ireland, was made to reply, in the language framed to soften a royal declaration of dissent, that he would take the opinion of his Council how far such a measure might be expedient. The monarch was but nine years of age at this, the time of his accession to the throne, when the able and devoted William Earl of Pembroke having, by virtue of his office, as Earl Marshal of England, the command of the army, and consequently, in such times, the influence and authority of government, was at once appointed, by a council of the Barons, Protector of the realm, the conduct of which he thereupon assumed on behalf of the infant prince; and in the same first year of the reign, he caused the great charter, which had been wrung from King John, to be freely renewed and confirmed to the nobles and people of England, a boon which was immediately and as voluntarily extended to Ireland. The Earl, it will be remembered(*a*), had married Isabella, the daughter of Strongbow, by the heiress of Dermot Mac Murrough, he was, consequently, invested with large possessions in Leinster, and had been, during upwards of three years, "governor" of Ireland, being the only individual, with the exception of Prince John, to whose control this country had been theretofore, or for many centuries after, confided by that extensive title. Thus connected with Ireland, it was the interest, policy, and

(*a*) See of this individual, *ante*, vol. i. p. 100.



inclination of this great man, to extend to it all the protection and security, which that truly great muniment of liberties was designed to afford; accordingly, while the King was yet at Gloucester, and in three months after the coronation, a royal letter, also of record in the Tower of London, issued, directed to the Archbishops, Bishops, Abbots, Earls, Barons, Knights, Free Tenants, and to all faithful subjects of Ireland, acquainting them with the previous confirmatory charter of England, and transmitting a duplicate thereof for authority and observance in the former island, with such verbal alterations only, as were requisite in the descriptions and names of cities and harbours there.

By this important instrument it was witnessed, that King Henry, with the advice of his Council, had "given to God" (this being the solemn phrase adopted in grants to the Church), and confirmed, for himself and his heirs for ever, that the Church of Ireland should be free, and possess all its rights and liberties inviolate, and that all the freemen of the kingdom, and their heirs, should for ever hold the liberties thereinafter specified. It then first defines and controls the reliefs, incident to the feudal tenure, from heirs succeeding to inheritances held under the Crown, and it limits their amount according to a descending scale, from the sons of Earls (then the highest dignity of the peerage), to those of the tenants who held from the King without any intervening lord. It next prescribes, that such heirs, where

they have been in wardship, should, on attaining age, be restored to their estates without relief or fine.— That the guardian of such ward shall not levy unreasonable exactions off or commit any waste upon the inheritance, but on the contrary, shall keep up all existing improvements for the benefit of the heir; while in this section of the Act was introduced, for the first time, a direction that the same rule should be observed in grants of the custody of vacant sees, abbacies, priories, churches, and dignities, with a further proviso in reference to the latter, that their wardships should not be sold. The next section was framed to prevent mercenary or interested guardians from opposing eligible or enforcing imprudent marriages of their wards, such conduct being what was technically called “disparagement.” Provisions were next made for the prompt assignment of the dower of widows, and against their compulsory marriages, after which comes the first distinct act of grace in the charter (the previous clauses being in fact little more than declaratory of the old law), whereby the King granted, that no lands or revenues of the subject should be seized for the King’s debt, while such subject had chattels, or was otherwise ready to satisfy same; nor should sureties be distrained when the principal was able to pay. It was next provided, that the City of Dublin, and all other cities, boroughs, and ports, should enjoy all their liberties (i. e. such royal privileges as they held by express grant) and customs (i. e. such immuni-

ties and rights as they enjoyed of long use). Succeeding provisions established the holding of Courts of Assize, in those counties which the Pale then embraced; defined that amerciaments should be, if levied off a freeman, with a saving of his containment (i. e. his essential subsistence); if off a merchant, with a similar saving of his livelihood and necessary stock for trade and traffic; if off a villein, saving his wannage (i. e. without prejudice to his waggons and implements of husbandry). Directed that Earls and Barons might only be amerced by their Peers, according to their crime; and clergymen according to the amount of their benefices.—That no townland or individual could be compelled to build bridges, but such as were prescriptively bound thereto.—That, with the honest object of having trials, at least those in which the Crown was a party, held at the appointed Courts of Assize, before judges of learning and experience in the law, no sheriff, constable (i. e. constable of a castle), or bailiffs, should be authorized to hold pleas of the Crown.—That, where a tenant of the King died, his debts to the Exchequer should be a paramount lien on his chattels, and no portion thereof be removeable until the debt of the Crown was paid in full, the remainder being left to the executors to perform the will of the deceased. The next ensuing sections restrain undue exactions of purveyance, and regulate the prices of all articles required for the maintenance of the King's castles; while, to prevent injury to the inheritance, the King engaged,

that no wood should be taken from any person for building such castle without the proprietor's consent. It was next provided, that the lands of persons convicted of felony (i. e. of felony punishable with death), should not be withheld in the hands of the Crown longer than a year and a day, and be then returned to the lord of the fee.—That on the Liffey, and through all Ireland, except on the sea coast, all kydells (weirs) should be given up.—That writs of right should not be executed on any person of any holding, whereby a freeman might lose his suit [a clause that seems to have been designed to prevent any false transfer of property, under colour of law, from one lord to another, by which the former lost both his fee and his tenant's services, with his court of jurisdiction].—That there should be one measure of wine, ale, and corn throughout the kingdom; and that two ells within the lists should be the breadth of coloured cloths, viz., of haubergett (a coarse, thick species, of various colours, sometimes used for the habits of monks), and of russets (also a monastic dress, made of an inferior cloth, and dyed of a dull reddish hue); and that the law and custom should be the same with weights as with measures. That nothing should thenceforth be given for a writ of inquisition of life and limb, but same should issue gratis [a regulation, that, as it directly denounced the detention of any person in prison whose guilt was not proved, may be considered the prototype of the *Habeas Corpus* Act]. The monarch next renounced the

custody of any wards which, though their inheritance was held under another lord, might yet be, in a strict construction of the tenure of petty serjeantcy, as for small services of right issuing thereout to the Crown, held to become vested in His Majesty to the prejudice of the lord of the fee. The three next ensuing chapters of the Act communicate its most important privileges, and constitute the noblest benefits of this great charter, guaranteeing, as they do, the security of person, the sacredness of home, and the inviolability of reputation; establishing the openness and solemnity of public courts, the quality of the testimony to be received on trials, the moral ordeal of an impartial jury, and the purity of judicial administration. The intercourse of foreign merchants was the next subject of vigilant care, in a clause, which won from Montesquieu the laudatory comment, that "the English charter made the protection of foreign merchants an article of their national liberty." The reliefs and services issuing out of honours, with provisions from the Forest Law, are next transferred from the English Act, but seem to have had no application in Ireland. By the thirty-seventh section, the rights of the founders of ancient abbeys to all the temporalities, and their custody when vacant, were expressly recognized; and by the thirty-ninth it was provided, that no man should be seized or imprisoned on a charge of murder by the appeal of a woman, unless she were the widow of the deceased; in explanation of which, it may be here added, that this recognition

of her duty did not attach longer, than while she continued a widow; in all other cases, the appeal should be brought by the heir male of the deceased, or by the next heir male, if the former were the individual suspected. The last operative section of this muniment is not the least gloriously gracious, denouncing, as it does imperatively, any tyrannical exercise of the feudal authority, or any oppressive acts by the clergy or the barons, against their sub-feudatories or tenants, which they were themselves hereby relieved from.

Of this great charter, which was dated at Bristol, and witnessed by the Earl of Pembroke and many of the King's Council, a duplicate was at once transmitted to Ireland; on the obvious benefits of which measure, yet neutralized there under the unfortunate circumstances of the country, Dr. Leland furnishes a comment, which cannot be better expressed. "Thus," he says, "were the rights and privileges of the Irish settlers completely ascertained and established. They were not only governed by the same monarchs and the same laws with their ancestors, but, to complete their union with their fellow-subjects in England, they were included in the concessions extorted from the throne, to circumscribe the prerogative and correct the severities gradually introduced by the feudal system. They appear in the same honourable light with their brethren in the neighbouring realm, making the same requisitions, and obtaining the same grants, which are to this day

revered as the basis of English liberty. But, if the requisition of the English charters proceeded rather from an aristocratic spirit than the love of true liberty, the same spirit, it must be acknowledged, was still more predominant in Ireland; where the Barons, remote from the extreme seat of majesty, uncontrolled by a delegated authority, too often weak and ill supported, invested with enormous territories and dangerous privileges, were tempted by their strength, and enabled by the situation of the kingdom to pursue the objects of their avarice and ambition, without regard to justice, and sometimes without even the appearance of respect to government. As the same passions possessed them all, they of consequence lived with each other in a perpetual state of rivalry, envy, and dissension; and, as their claims were to be supported by force of arms, their own vassals, as well as the native Irish, felt the severe consequences of their pride and oppression. Odious as such representations may appear, they will be found but too fully justified in the progress of Irish history; and it may be no useless task distinctly to point out the source of these calamities, under which the nation groaned for so long a period, and to exhibit these facts in full view, which prove that they were originally derived from the vices of individuals, not from any inequitable or oppressive principles in English government." Adopting the sanction, under which the recital and attestation of the above instrument evince that it was digested,

councils for the guidance of, and co-operation with the successive Viceroys of Ireland, appear to have originated from this period.

In 1218, "The English of Meath and Murtoth Carrach O'Ferral, plundered the territory of Hy-Briuin on the Shannon, but were overtaken by Dermot, the son of Turlough, son of Melaghlin, with a party of the people of Connaught, who defeated the English, of whom upwards of one hundred were either drowned or slain, and O'Conor himself, and many of his party, were also killed in the thick of the fight." In the following year, "O'Donnell marched his forces into Connaught, and obtained hostages and the submission of O'Ruarc, O'Reilly, and the entire tribe of Hugh Fionn; he afterwards led his forces through Fermanagh, and spoiled every place through which he passed, both church and country, wherever he was opposed." About the same time Geoffrey Fitz-Maurice led a hosting into Kerry and Desmond, destroying the corn throughout his whole route. The year 1220 was remarkable for a severe visitation of storm, which caused the destruction of many houses, churches, and woods, and several shipwrecks, while the Four Masters say, that Dermot, the son of Roderic O'Conor, was slain in his voyage from the Hebrides, where, it would appear, he had collected a fleet, with which he was coming over for the purpose of establishing himself in the dominion of Connaught. In this year a singular arrangement appears of Record (*Rot. Pat.* 4, Hen. VII. *in*



*Turr. Lond.*) styled a convention between the King and Geoffrey, as his Justiciary of Ireland, as to the duties which the latter was to be bound to perform. Out of the rents and profits of Ireland he was to maintain the King's lands and castles, duly accounting therefor to the Archbishop of Dublin and others therein named, and the remainder he was to pay over into the King's Exchequer; he was to have the appointment of the constables of castles, and to be answerable for them, such constables taking certain oaths of fealty, and giving their sons or daughters, or next of kin, as hostages for their fidelity; while the Justiciary himself delivered his own son as a hostage for his, gave a solemn pledge to the same effect, and also gave the security of his own lands, so that if he in any manner failed in his duty said lands escheated to the Crown; he also took an oath to observe the premises, or submit himself to excommunication and his lands to interdict. In the following year Walter de Lacy, who had been expelled from Ireland, returned thither, contrary to the command of his King, and having joined Hugh O'Neill, according to the Four Masters, they first proceeded to Coleraine, where, having dismantled the castle, they marched thence to Meath and Leinster, reducing the country in their whole course; the Anglo-Irish mustered at Dundalk, but, on the approach of O'Neill, "they submitted to his own terms." De Lacy was, however, compelled to pay a fine of 4,000 marks to King Henry, before he was restored to his estates or to the royal favour.

“ In 1223, O'Donnell,” say the Four Masters, “ marched his forces to Rath Croghan, and from thence westward, across the Suck, devastating, by fire and sword, every district through which he passed, and compelling them to give hostages and make submission.” In the ensuing year died Cathal Crovdearg, of whom the above historians give the following character: “ the man who, during a long time, destroyed more of the traitors and enemies of Ireland than any other had done; the chief supporter of the clergy, and benefactor of the poor and indigent; a man in whom God had implanted more goodness and greater virtues, than in any other of the Irish nobility in his time. From the period of his wife's death till his own, he led a single and virtuous life. During his reign tithes were first lawfully collected in Ireland . . . he died in the habit of a grey friar, in the monastery of Knockmoy, which he himself had dedicated to God, and granted to the monks with its site and lands, and in which he was interred with due honours and solemnity.” His son Hugh “ succeeded immediately and without opposition, as King of Connaught, for he had the hostages of that country previous to his father's death;” and his inheritance appears in a manner recognized in a *Close Roll* of record in the Tower of London, whereby King Henry commanded his Justiciary to give to Hugh O'Conor, “son of the King of Connaught,” full possession of certain lands therein described, to be thenceforth held by said Hugh, to sustain him in the

royal service. In the same year, the Four Masters mention the death of a descendant of O'Connor Maenmagi, "in his journey home from Jerusalem and the River Jordan."

In the middle of the year 1225, the text of the Annals of Boyle is again recovered.

" . . . . . by the Nialls and by the people of Connaught. Great devastations caused by Niall, and universal gatherings to him. The foreigners of Ireland collected to the son of Cathal Croidhearg, as did the men of Munster. Great evils and devastations were caused by them, and many men were slain. Ethmarcach, the son of Brannan, was banished by the son of Roderic, out of his territory, into the North, and with him Donough, the son of Mac Airechtach (Mac Geraghty), on account of the district, which by their confederacy had been wasted."

The circumstances, here partially detailed, are given at very great length by the Four Masters. Some chiefs of Connaught, who were disaffected to the government of Cathal's son, had sought protection and aid from O'Neill, who, mustering his forces, marched into Connaught; "nor did he halt until he arrived in the middle of Siol Murray, whence he proceeded to the wood of Athlone, where he remained encamped for two nights at the mill of Guanach, until he devastated Lough Nen, from which he carried away all the treasures of O'Connor; from thence he marched to Carn Fraoich, where Turlough, son of Roderic O'Connor, was inaugurated by O'Neill and his party; for all the clans, except the supporters of

Hugh, the son of Cathal, namely, Mac Dermot, O'Flynn, and a few others, gave their support to the sons of Roderic. The son of Cathal then came to a resolution, to repair to the English, at the castle of Athlone, and it happened, fortunately for him, that the English nobility of Ireland were then assembled there, most of whom were his friends on his own account, as well as on that of his father, for they were both tributaries to the English. The English received him gladly, and he remained with them for some time on very friendly terms. The Lord Justice, and many of the English nobility, gave him their support, and were joined by Donogh Carbreay O'Brien, and O'Melaghlin, Lord of Meath, with their forces. The people of Magh-Ai, and those of the Tuatha of Connaught, having received intelligence of the muster of the forces, fled, with their flocks and property, into the territory of Leney and Tyrawley, and left the sons of Roderic with a small army, who, with what men they could assemble, retired to Kilkelly. Hugh, and the English who aided him, sent the light companies to plunder the adherents of Roderic's sons, and kept the main army for the purpose of attacking those of their opponents. Hugh, the son of Roderic, Donel O'Flaherty, Tiernan, son of Cathal Megarainn, and the son of Turlough son of Roderic, went to solicit the aid of some friends. The English, accompanied by Hugh, the son of Cathal Croidearg, marched to attack Turlough, who, perceiving their intention, commanded certain of his

leaders, viz. Donogh Oge Mac Airechtach with his adherents, Flaherty O'Flanagan, and several other young soldiers, to advance with all possible speed before him, while he himself covered the rear, which movement he effectually executed, and thus they escaped without any loss. On the same day a skirmishing party from Hugh O'Connor came up with Ethmarcach Mac Branan, who, while defending his prey of cattle, was killed by his opponents. Hugh O'Connor, at the head of the English, pursued the sons of Roderic that night to Meelick, and spent three nights plundering Leney in all directions, but afterwards made peace with O'Hara, and spared the remaining property of the country. Roderic's sons were, at this time, in the neighbourhood of Lough Mac Feredaidh, in Glen na Mochart. Hugh advised his English allies to plunder the Tuatha of Connaught, Siol Murray, and also the clan Tomultach, as they had fled. They having determined upon this plan, he led them, by an unfrequented pass, through the wood of Gatlaigh, until they reached Ath-tighe-in-messaigh (Attemas), where they commenced plundering Cuill Cearnaidh (Coolcarney), having expelled the inhabitants, who fled to Dubhcongá (Cong), but the most of whom were drowned, so that the pools of the river, above the ford which they endeavoured to cross, were found full of drowned children, and such of them, as escaped the English and drowning, fled into Tyrawley, where they were attacked and plundered of all their cattle by O'Dowd.

With respect to the sons of Roderic, the resolution they came to was, that they would separate their forces, until the English should depart from Hugh; that Donogh Mac Airechtach, and others of their chiefs, should go to the country of O'Flaherty, their friend and ally, and that the sons of Murtogh O'Conor, and Tiernan Mac Cathal, should go in quest of their people and cattle, and sue for peace on their behalf, until the English should separate from the son of Cathal Crovdearg. Hugh was then at Mayo, and the sons of Murtogh Muimnagh proceeded thither, with sureties, to seek his pardon and protection. The people of South Connaught were then in a very unsettled and unhappy condition, for the English of Leinster and Munster, along with Murtogh O'Brien, and the English of Desmond, headed by the sheriff of Cork, marched together, into their territory, slew all whom they met, and plundered their farms and towns. Hugh, son of Cathal Crovdearg, was much displeased with them for coming on such an expedition, for they had not come at his instigation, but influenced by their own desire to plunder the country, and in consequence of their hearing how much of the wealth of Connaught the Lord Justice and his English followers had then obtained. During that incursion, the four sons of Mac Murrough were slain in one place. It was a woeful visitation of Providence, which befel the best province in Ireland at that time, for no man spared his neighbour, but took advantage of his misfortunes, and plundered him,

and many women, children, and helpless persons, among the peasantry, perished of cold and famine during those wars. The sons of Murtogh Muimnach having proceeded, as before stated, to sue for protection from Hugh O'Connor, arrived on the following day at Kilmeodhain (Kilmaine, County Mayo). At this place the three English armies formed a junction, and the barony was nearly covered with their forces, and those of the Irish. Hugh O'Flaherty, under the protection of the English nobles, and of Donogh Carbrey O'Brien, his intercessors, came before Hugh O'Connor and the Lord Justice, and entered into terms of peace and protection for his people and property, on condition that he should expel from his territory the sons of Roderic. After this Hugh O'Connor, and his English allies, marched to Tuam, where he dismissed the English of Leinster and of Desmond, while himself returned to O'Flaherty, on whose fidelity he did not depend, for O'Flaherty kept the sons of Roderic and Donogh Oge Mac Airechtach under his protection, on the western side of the lake (Lough Corrib). At that time Mac Manus parted with the sons of Roderic O'Connor, and went into Tyrawley, in quest of his people and cattle, which he fortunately recovered without loss, and took with him, under the protection of O'Ruar, who had then plundered Philip Mac Costello. Donogh Carbrey O'Brien having sent before him a party with great booty, Hugh, son of Roderic, and Owen O'Heyne, who had received intelligence of it, inter-

cepted them with a small select party, and, having defeated the Munster men, recovered the booty, and took some of the chiefs as hostages. When Donogh Carbreay O'Brien heard of these proceedings, he came to Hugh, son of Roderic, made peace with him by the solemn ceremony of extinguishing candles, and bound himself never again to oppose him, on condition that he (Hugh) should release from prison his (Donogh's) captive friends. The latter did not however, adhere to his covenant with the son of Roderic after his friends were released, for on the next occasion he marched against him with the forces of Hugh, son of Cathal Crovdearg. After some time Hugh O'Conor, and the Lord Justice, arrived at the port of Inis Creamha (in Lough Corrib), and compelled O'Flaherty to surrender into his hands the islands, and all the vessels on the lake. The Lord Justice after this returned home, having been escorted a great part of his journey by Hugh O'Conor, with whom the Lord Justice left many of his chief officers and soldiers, for he could depend only on a few of the people of Connaught. He (O'Conor) then delivered, into the hands of the English, the most distinguished heads of his clan, as a guarantee for the payment of their tribute, namely, O'Flaherty, O'Flanagan, Fergal O'Teigue, and others of the chiefs of Connaught, who were obliged to ransom themselves. O'Flaherty, the son of Murtoigh (O'Dowd), and the other chiefs, revolted against Hugh, son of Cathal Crovdearg, after the English army had de-



parted, and joined the sons of Roderic. Hugh O'Connor then sent messengers and letters to the Lord Justice, informing him of these circumstances, and requesting him to send him some forces. He was not disappointed, for the English promptly and cheerfully responded to the call, and their expedition proved profitable to them, for great was their booty and small their loss; the English of Leinster, commanded by William Cruise and the sons of Griffin, were forthwith sent to his aid. As soon as these forces arrived, Hugh O'Connor marched to attack the son of Roderic, passed the tochar (road) westward, and thence proceeded through the territory of Hy-Diarmada, where he heard that the son of Roderic then was, with a small force, as his friends had not yet come to his aid. Hugh O'Connor sent his brother Feidhlim with other chiefs, and a large force of English soldiers, to plunder Owen O'Heyne in Hy-Fiachra Aidhne; and they encamped for the night at Ardrathan. Intelligence was brought to O'Flaherty, and to the sons of Murtough, who were then preparing to join the son of Roderic, that the English had gone to plunder their ally, Owen O'Heyne, and were at Ardrathan. They, therefore, made no delay, but all, with one accord, pursued them until they came close on them. They there held a consultation, and resolved first to send Tuathal, son of Murtogh (O'Dowd) and Taithleach O'Dowd, with a large body of their forces, to Ardrathan, while O'Flaherty, and the son of Murtogh, remained out-

side the town with their troops. Tuathal and Taithleach marched onward with a strong force, attacked the English in the town with great animation and courage, and made such havoc among them, that they were totally defeated and put to flight east and west. The victors closely pursued them eastwards; Tuathal in the first encounter wounded the English constable or commander, and Taithleach pierced him a second time, so that he was left lifeless on the spot. The remainder of the English, who were driven out of the town westwards, were met by O'Flaherty and the son of Murtoth, (O'Dowd), but unfortunately they were defeated by the English, and Mahon, son of Hugh, son of Conor Maenmagi, Gilcreest Mac Dermot, Niall, son of Fergal O'Teigue, and others, were slain in the conflict. The person who slew Niall O'Teigue, namely, the brother of Colen O'Dempsey, was also slain. As to Roderic's son, he, O'Flaherty, and their supporters, assembled together, and marched on the following day southward, until they arrived at Drom Canannain, but Hugh, son of Cathal Crovdearg, with his English allies, pursued them. The supporters of Roderic's sons now held a council, and resolved that they should return home, which all agreed to do except Donogh Oge Mac Airechtach. The other chiefs, however, having parted from the royal sons of Roderic O'Conor, with whom they left but a small force, proceeded to the residence of Hugh O'Neill, accompanied by Donogh Mac Airechtach. Hugh, son of Cathal Crov-

dearg, then attacked O'Flaherty and took hostages from him, after which he proceeded to Kilmaine, and from thence to Mayo, in pursuit of the son of Murtough (O'Dowd), and Tiernan, son of Cathal Megarainn, who made terms and obtained protection for their people and property: and they then made submission to Hugh O'Connor, on the security of Donogh Carbrey O'Brien and the English nobles. Until then there was no peace in Connaught, for all its churches and territories had been plundered and laid waste. After these events a destructive plague and fever followed and devastated Connaught, entire towns being depopulated, so that a single living creature could not be found in them(*a*).” The Annals of the Four Masters conclude their narrative of this year, with a notice that sadly testifies the hostile occupations, which distracted the population of Ireland in the preceding; it forms, in the same words, the opening of the notices of 1226 in the Annals of Boyle.

“ 1226. The crops were cut down about the feast of St. Brigid [1st of February], before the ploughing had begun, and in that spring a great pestilence fell upon the people. An army was collected by Niall until he came into Connaught, and into other parts, though not to his advantage,

(*a*) In citing this, and other passages, from the Annals of the Four Masters, subsequent to the period at which Dr. O'Connor's publication closes, the translation of Mr. Owen Connellan, in the very creditable edition of this, the greater portion of these Annals, now being published in numbers by Mr. Geraghty, has been adopted.

and a warlike muster was held by him. Hostages were taken from Tirconnel, and the son of the son of Donald Ferral was slain by Thady."

The excursion of O'Neill, here recorded, was the result of his favourite policy, by thwarting the succession to the monarchy of Connaught, as it might be sanctioned by the English, to make that province, rather than his own, the scene of hostilities. Moore, in reference to this occurrence, says: "So daring a defiance of the will of the government called down on the offenders the vengeance of the Lord Justice, Geoffrey de Marisco; and a long furious struggle ensued, during which the sovereignty of Connaught, after having passed from Turlough O'Connor to Hugh, a son of Cathal, settled on the brow of Feidlim, another son of that prince." This narrative is continued by the next notice in the Annals of Boyle.

"1227. A parley had between Conor and the son of Geoffrey Marsh; the son of Geoffrey taken and other foreigners. The constable of Athlone slain."

But the Annals of the Four Masters give the most circumstantial detail. Hugh, the son of Cathal Crovdearg, appointed, that the above parley should be held on a moor at the Connaught side of Athlone. "Only a chosen few of O'Connor's party went beyond the morass where the meeting was to take place, to receive William, the son of Geoffrey Marisco, who came thither, accompanied by eight horsemen.

O'Connor, remembering their former treachery, rose in opposition to the English, and incited his party against them, and he himself attacked William Marisco, and made him prisoner on the spot; the party, thus instigated by O'Connor, obeyed the call, attacked the English, defeated them, and slew the Constable of Athlone; they also took other prisoners, whom Hugh O'Connor sent to confinement beyond the morass, and then marched with a body of men to Athlone, where he plundered the market-place and burned the whole town. This was a fortunate circumstance for many of the people of Connaught, as many of their sons and daughters, and the hostages of Connaught, who were detained in bondage by the English, were released in exchange for the above-named English prisoners, and in addition to this the people of Connaught obtained terms of peace."

"The son of Arthur taken, and his wife, and his family, and many of his sept."

This relates to an invasion and spoliation of the territories of O'Ruarc.

"Great famine in Ireland; Donsleve O'Gara(a), King of

(a) The O'Gara was in ancient times chief of Galen and of Luigne, now the Barony of Leney, in the County of Sligo; accordingly the Four Masters record the deaths of Tullogh O'Gara, "prince of South Luigne," in battle, at 964; of Conall O'Gara, "prince of Galen," in 993; of Roderic O'Gara, "tanist of Luigne," in 1056; of Roderic O'Gara, "king presumptive of Luigne," in 1059; of Dunsleve O'Gara, tanist of Luigne, in 1067, and of O'Gara, prince of Luigne, at the battle of Ardee, in 1128. The territory

Slieve Luigne, slain by Gildas the Red, i. e. by the son of his brother; Gildas the Red slain."

Gildas, say the Four Masters, had taken forcible possession of the house of Donsleve, at night, and perpetrated the murder, but was afterwards himself put to death by order of Hugh O'Conor.

"Hugh, the son of Cathal, being banished from his kingdom, went to the north, and he then came again to Connaught, until he approached the Curlews, and the two sons of Turlough O'Conor obtained a victory against him, and led his wife into captivity, and kept her with them as a hostage. The castle of Rinduin was built by Geoffrey, and the castle of Athleague(a) was likewise built by him. A

of this sept was subsequently more commonly called Moy-Gara; accordingly, in 1596, Irial O'Gara, Lord of Moy-Gara, and chief of his name, granted to his son and heir Teigue, several denominations of land within that territory. In 1634 Ferral O'Gara, Lord of Moy-Gara and Coolavin, was one of the representatives of the County Sligo in Parliament, and to him, as its greatest patron, the Annals of the Four Masters were dedicated. In 1689 Oliver O'Gara was one of the representatives of the County Sligo in King James's Parliament, in two years after which he witnessed the Articles of Galway. A regiment formed by the O'Gara did much service for James in Louth, and its Colonel was killed in his service at Limerick. In 1734, Brien O'Gara was Roman Catholic Archbishop of Tuam, as was Michael O'Gara in 1742.

(a) The possession of the fortress, thus erected on the banks of the Suck, became an object of many subsequent contentions between the English and the natives. In 1272, Maurice Fitz-Maurice, then Lord Justice, destroyed this castle, with those of Randon, Roscommon, and Sligo, and the same were, in five years afterwards, yet further dilapidated by the Irish, in revenge for

great war between the two sons of Roderic the Stammerer, i. e. Hugh and Turlough, until they mutually destroyed Connaught."

Marisco had espoused the pretensions of the latter, and, at the head of the English of Meath, joined him in an expedition into West Connaught, where they committed great depredations on the O'Flahertys. "Thence they proceeded," add the Four Masters, "into the territory of Carra (in County Mayo), where they exacted hostages, and carried away with them a large number of beeves from every district."

"1228. Hugh O'Connor, the son of Cathal Crovdearg, the wisest as well as the most active man in Ireland, was treacherously slain in the house of Geoffrey Marsh;"

"after he had been expelled by the people of Connaught," add the Four Masters; "whereupon a great war broke out there between Hugh and Turlough, the sons of Roderic, for the younger brother would not yield submission to the elder. . . . Hugh, however, was made King of Connaught, through the support of the Lord Justice and the chiefs of Connaught, thus usurping the rights of Turlough his elder brother. . . . Excessive dearth prevailed in Connaught, in consequence of the war between the sons of Roderic O'Connor. Both the churches and the country were plundered, the clergy and learned

the death of O'Brien, King of Thomond, whom Thomas de Clare had slain, and in 1497, Gerald, the ninth Earl of Kildare, took the castles of Athleague, Roscommon, Tulsk, and Castlerca.

men were exiled into foreign lands, and many persons perished of cold and famine."

Leland, in reference to the state of Ireland immediately previous and subsequent to this year, thus expresses himself: "In a country thus oppressed by severity, and harassed by mutual competitions, the first symptom of a disorder, which proved so fatal to Ireland, could not fail to mark this wretched period of petty tyrannies. The English laws, which had been so solemnly accepted and established, were soon found to be a system unfriendly to oppression. Too severe in punishing those outrages which subvert the peace of society, and too indulgent to the rights and properties of inferiors, they were scorned by an imperious, aristocratic faction, who, in the frenzy of rapine and ambition, trampled on the most salutary institutions, and, by oppressing those immediately below them, taught them to become themselves oppressors, and to stop that current of equity and justice, which was their own most effectual security. So early as the year 1228, a remonstrance appears to have been made to the King against this dangerous neglect and suspension of the laws, so that he judged it necessary to transmit his mandate to the chief governor for suppressing this innovation (*Rot. Cl.* 12 Henry III. *in Turr. Lond.*), thereby directing, that the whole body of nobility, knights, free tenants, and bailiffs of the several counties, should be convened, that the charter of English laws and customs should be read over in their presence,



that they should be required for the future strictly to observe and adhere to these, and that proclamation should be made in every county of Ireland of this royal mandate, strictly enjoining obedience, on pain of forfeiture of lands and tenements; yet how little effect was produced by this order, and how justly the opposition to the course of English law is imputed to the great lords of Ireland, we learn from a mandate of the same kind in the year 1246, in which the barons are commanded, that for the peace and tranquillity of the land, they may *permit* it to be governed by the laws of England." The Annalists of Boyle, alluding to the above wars of the brothers, write :

" Great devastation in Connaught, from Easadara to the river(a) of Hy-Fiachra, some few only being spared in Slieve Luga, and some of the sept of the country of Ar-teagh(b)."

(a) The River Moy, here intended, takes its principal source in the County of Sligo, and, after wandering hence upwards of fifty miles, through that of Mayo, discharges itself into the Atlantic Ocean, at the port of Killala. On its banks are three of the pagan Round Towers, and several interesting remains of Abbeys. The salmon fishery on this river, the whole right of which anciently appertained to the Abbey of Cong, is considered one of the most considerable in the kingdom.

(b) The ancient name of a tract, which included Tibohin, or Tigh-Baithin, i. e. the house of St. Baithin, and was a rural bishopric in 640. It is mentioned, *post*, at 1229, and is now parochially known as Taghboyne, in the present barony of French Park. Within it are situated the fine mansions of French Park and Lough Glyn, near which latter, on Lough Erritt, is the pic-

“ David O’Flin, chief of the clan Maolruan, died. Hugh, the son of Roderic, obtains the kingdom of Connaught:—Maolsechnal, the son of Turlough, was slain.”

This Turlough was the brother of Hugh, and his competitor for the throne of Connaught, and this his son was slain, according to the Four Masters, by his uncle, said Hugh.

“ Gilla the Holy, son of Roderic, died.

“ The Archbishop of Dublin<sup>(a)</sup> rested in peace.—Great famine in Connaught in this year.—Rory O’Maolbrenan died.

“ 1229. Diarmid, the son of Mac Carthy [Lord of Desmond], died.—Lochlaid O’Mannacran was slain.—Murdoch O’Gorman, Prior of Inchmacnerin, a very religious man, and Mac Cerachta, the most learned of the country in poetry, died.—Dionysius, Bishop of Elphin, resigned his bishopric in the same year. Diarmid Mac Gillicarrig, the venerable priest of Ti-Baoithin, died at the close of this year, whose body, when the canons and other clergy of the Archdeaconry of Elphin would fain have carried for interment to the Island of the Holy Trinity, the great cellarer of Boyle stopped them on the way, who said that he had chosen to be buried among the monks in Boyle, and who had collected round him all the monks and canons of that monastery with their retainers, to bring by themselves exclusively the body, and according to their avowed direction of claim, when there arose such a dissension between these

turesque seat of Fitz-Stephen French, Esq., one of the representatives of the County Roscommon in Parliament.

(a) See “ Memoirs of the Archbishops of Dublin,” p. 79, &c., for full particulars of the prelate here alluded to,—Henry de Loundres.

monks and the canons, and the others, adherents of the Arch-deacon, that it was arranged, by consent of each party, that the body should be rested for two days and two nights in the church of Drum, when, on the third day, all the monks of Boyle, and the clergy of Moylurg, being collected together, they, by compromise, referred the question to two proper arbitrators, on whose award, after suit contested and allegations pressed, it was at length adjudged that the body should be buried in the church of the Holy Trinity.

“1230. Dunsleve O'Mainmanan, chief master of the monastery of Boyle, dies.—Moelmore O'Maolein(a), successor

(a) This very ancient family, lineally represented in the County Westmeath, from the earliest period of recorded history to the present day, is said to derive its origin from the O'Conors, Kings of Connaught, a member of which line, Maol-eoin, gave name to this sept. In 1076, O'Malone died, successor of St. Ciaran, at Clonmacnois, as did Gilla-Christ O'Malone, in 1110. Another Gilla-Christ O'Malone is recorded by the Four Masters, as having died Bishop of Clonmacnois, in 1127, as did his successors in the See, Hugh O'Malone, in 1153; Tigernach O'Malone, in 1172; Cathal O'Malone, in 1206; Maolmori O'Malone, as above, in 1230; and Hugh O'Malone, in 1236. In 1569, Edmund Malone, of Ballinahown, married Margaret, daughter of Richard D'Alton, by whom he had issue one son, Edmund, from whom the present John Malone, of Ballinahown, is, as proveable by the strictest legal evidence, descended in direct male representation, while a younger son on that line, viz., Anthony, great grandson of the last mentioned Edmund, was the father of Richard Malone, of Baronstown, who, while pursuing his studies in the Temple, exhibited such intelligence and discretion, that he was employed by King William in an embassy to Holland. In 1700 he was called to the Irish bar, of which he continued to be a distinguished ornament to the time of his death, in 1744. His eldest son, the celebrated Anthony Malone, was educated at Oxford, called to

of Ciaran of Clonmacnois, and Cervulain, Bishop of Kinel Eogan, died.—Joseph Mac Thegadan, Bishop of Conmacne (Ardagh), died.”

He had gone to Rome for the Pope's especial confirmation, but died on his return at Florence.

“Gelasius O'Derig, Bishop of Luigne [Achonry], died. Ralph Petit(a), Bishop of Meath, a religious and charitable

the Irish bar in 1726, was a practising barrister for many years, during the life-time of his father, and one of the representatives for Westmeath from 1727 to the time of his death, in 1776 (excepting the interval from 1760 to 1768); he was appointed Prime Serjeant in 1754, Chancellor of the Exchequer in 1757, and had a patent of precedence in 1763. In 1733, he married Rose, daughter of Sir Ralph Gore, Bart., but died without issue in 1776. Edmund, his next brother, second son of Richard, also followed the profession of the law, and became a Judge of the Common Pleas; he married an English lady, Miss Collier, by whom he had Richard, his eldest son, afterwards created Lord Sunderlin, who died unmarried; Edmund, his second son, commonly called Shakespeare Malone, who also died unmarried; two other sons, Anthony and Benjamin, who died in their infancy; and two daughters, Henrietta and Catherine, who died unmarried. Richard, the third son of Richard, of Baronston, was a Serjeant at Law in the time of his elder brothers; he had four sons, of whom the three youngest died without issue in 1834, but the eldest, Henry, was the father of the late Richard Malone, of Pallas Park (who died without issue), and of Alicia, now the widow of Henry O'Connor, and of Catherine, the wife of Michael Whitestone, the present possessors of the estates of Baronston.

(a) A family of high antiquity, in the Counties of Kent, Cornwall, and Herefordshire, transplanted to Ireland, in the person of William Petit, on whom Hugh de Lacy, immediately after he had obtained the grant of the Palatinate of Meath, conferred the Lordships of Maheradernon, Dysert with its lake, in fact all the

man, and a servant of God, rested in Christ.—A great army, led by Richard de Burg, with the chiefs of the foreigners of Ireland, and Donogh O'Brien, surnamed Carbrey, and they came into Connaught and to the Curlews, and a victory was there obtained against Hugh, the son of Roderic, against the King of Connaught, and against the people of Connaught, and Hugh, the son of Roderic, was driven out, and Donogh, the son of Rody, captain of the clan Murdoch, and many others, were slain with him; and the Lord Justice came with Hugh de Lacy to the harbour of the rock of Lough Ke, and he remained a whole week and two nights there, and he gave the kingdom to Felim, the son of Cathal of the Red

country about Mullingar, of which he became Palatine Baron, and was, in 1191, constituted Lord Justice of Ireland. In 1206, the above Ralph le Petit, then Archdeacon of Meath, was one of those put in nomination for the Archbishopric of Armagh, but, on election, was postponed for Eugene Mac Gillivider; he succeeded, however, in 1227, to the See of Meath, and was the founder of that Augustinian monastery, of which many of his descendants subsequently became Priors. In 1301, Peter le Petit was one of those summoned to do service against the Scots. In 1319, Robert le Petit succeeded to the See of Clonfert; and in 1330, the daughter and heiress of William Petit was married to the brother of the first Earl of Carrick. In 1373, Meilo and Laurence Petit were summoned to attend a great council in Dublin; and in 1400, Alexander Petit, theretofore Bishop of Meath, was interred at Trim. In 1464, an invasion upon the territory of the O'Melaghlin by the Petits, so provoked the hostility of that once royal sept, that they rose in arms against the government, and, when the Deputy marched to suppress the insurgents, they gave him battle, routed his forces, and took himself and many of his most distinguished followers prisoners. In 1524, Simon Petit was chief of this family; and in 1585, Redmond Petit was one of the representatives for Mullingar, in the Parliament of Elizabeth.

Hand, and he afterwards returned, and his army was disbanded."

In this year, "Hubert de Burgo," writes Ware in his *Annals*, "was chosen Lord Justice of Ireland (in the absence of Maurice Fitz-Gerald), to whom the King gave lands in Connaught, and made him Earl of Connaught, and shortly after, being called into England, for his uprightness and singular fidelity he was appointed Lord Justice of England and Earl of Kent, by the consent of all the Peers of the realm; afterwards, as the course of this world wheels about, he fell under the King's displeasure, so that he called him 'old traitor,' and in his rage, would have run him through with the sword, had not the Earl of Chester, and others, run between, for that 'tis said he had taken 5000 marks of the Queen of France to hinder his purpose. To avoid the King's displeasure, this Hubert fled to the chapel of Brandwood, in Essex, where he was taken, and by command of the King, sent to the Tower of London. All his friends forsook him, none answered for him but the Archbishop of Dublin; wherein we may behold, as in a glass, the disposition of feigned friends in former ages, who, in the spring of man's felicity, like swallows, will fly about him, but, when the winter of adversity nippeth, like snails, they keep within their shells. At length this Hubert was somewhat restored to the King's favour, that he was enlarged, yet banished the Court; lastly, he ended his miseries

at his manor house of Bansted, in Surrey, and was buried in the church of the Friars Preachers, at London, which was then in Holborn, unto the which church he gave his noble palace at Westminster, the which afterwards Walter Grey, the Archbishop of York, bought of them, and made it his inn, since commonly called York House, but now Whitehall."

"Hugh O'Neill, King of Tir-Eogan and Tir-Conaill, died."

"Heir presumptive," add the Four Masters, "to the throne of Ireland, the defender of Leath Conn against the English and the people of Leath Mogha; a man who had given neither hostages nor tributes to either English or Irish, who had gained many victories over the English, and defeated them with great slaughter, and who had levied tributes both on English and Irish enemies, and contemplated the conquest of all Ireland; he died,—though it was rather expected that he would have fallen in battle with the English."

"Fethfoelaga, daughter of Conor Mac Diarmid, died.

"1231. Felim O'Conor [the son of Cathal Crovdearg], was taken by the Lord Justice [Richard de Burgo], through the treachery of his own party.

"In the same year Cormac, the son of Tomultagh Mac Diarmid, commenced the erecting of a market town at Port-na-Carrig [near Boyle].—Dionysius, Bishop of Elphin, who had resigned his see for God, and who was the founder of an hospitium in the island of the Holy Trinity (with the aid of Clarus Mac Mullen, Archdeacon of Elphin, and the

canons thereof), rested in Christ in the same island, on the 18th of the Calends of January(a)."

The Lord of Brefny, Ualgarg O'Ruarc, also died in this year, "on his pilgrimage to the River Jordan;" while Hugh, son of Connor, son of Amlave More O'Donoghue, King of Lough Lene (Killarney), having likewise died about this time, was buried in the monastery of his own foundation at Aghadoe; then too, William Marshal, Earl of Pembroke, closed his career; whereupon, and as his brother and heir, Richard Marshal, was then a liegeman of the King of France, King Henry seized all his lands and possessions, and at the same time directed the Lord Deputy in Ireland to make proclamation, that any persons of that country coming over to serve against Llewelyn, Prince of Wales, might thereby acquire lands in Wales, with royal and especial favour.

"1232. Hugh O'Ferral, chief of the sept of Annaly, was burned by his relations in Inis-lough-coove.—Richard Bure builds the Castle of Bonegal [in Galway], and Adam Stanton(b)

(a) The text in the latter passage of this Annal is somewhat obscure, the translation here given seems, however, the scope of the notice intended. Clarus, the Archdeacon, had, as before mentioned, re-founded the religious house on Trinity Island, in 1215, and thus co-operated in establishing an "hospitium" for the reception and entertainment of pilgrims there.

(b) The family of Stanton, or more correctly De Staunton, was established in England on the Conquest, immediately after which Galfridus De Staunton, enriched by the grants of his royal leader, appears on record as a considerable benefactor to religious houses, especially to the earlier monastery at Rufford, in Nottingham-



builds that of Dunamon(*a*).—Conor, the son of Hugh, privately escapes from the foreigners, and the sons of the

shire; he married Beatrice de Muschamp, and from that union descended the Stauntons of Staunton Hall, in Nottinghamshire; those of Longbridge in Warwickshire; Smewns-Grange in Buckinghamshire, as well as those of Somersetshire, and the Irish lines of Cargins, County Galway. That the family passed early into Ireland, and effected a settlement in Connaught, is seen by the notice in text, while numerous other records of interest connected with them could be here given, were space allowed. A few, however, of more general interest, referrible to the Irish line, may be alluded to. In 1310, on the marriage of Gerald, son and heir of Maurice de Staunton, with Matilda de Raggeley, an assignment of four carucates of land as her dower, was, according to ancient form, solemnly declared at the gate of St. Patrick's cathedral, said Gerald having received fifty-seven marks as the lady's fortune. In 1312 Fromund le Brun (Brown) acquired considerable property in Connaught, in right of his wife Nesta, the daughter of Adam de Staunton. In 1347, Philip de Staunton was appointed a guardian of the peace within the County of Kildare, and in twelve years after was intrusted with the conduct of a parley with "the Irish rebels" of Leinster, and to adjust terms and treaty with them. In 1373 Margaret, the widow of Nicholas, son of Gerald de Staunton, had an assignment of dower in the County Cork, where a branch had also taken root. In the same year John Staunton was one of those directed to be summoned to a great Council within the Pale; he was probably one of the Stauntons who had settled at Cloghran, in the County Dublin, where Thomas Staunton and Johanna, his wife, had license, in 1387, to lease a messuage and 140 acres for lives, reserving there-

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(*a*) The castle, so constructed on the River Suck, has been replaced by a castellated mansion, the residence of the Caulfield family.

King of Connaught confederate with him, and they go against the inhabitants of the Tuatha,"

[in the County of Roscommon] "to make seizures there," say the Four Masters, 'but Conor was slain by the Tuatha, along with Gillkelly O'Heyne, Gilcreest, the son of Donogh Mac Dermot, and many others. On that day the people of Tuatha had all white-handled battle-axes, from which arose the adage, 'the man with the white axe slew the son of Hugh.'"

"In this year the renowned Archdeacon of Elphin commenced the erection of a monastery of Canons Regular, at Athmuighe, taking with him monks from the Island of the Holy Trinity, so that the brotherhood of that island might serve in each monastery alternately, the monks who served in the one year in one monastery to serve in the other during the next."

The Masters relate, that at this period "Donogh, the son of Tomultach Mac Dermot, a man eminent for hospitality and generosity to the distressed of Connaught, died of an epidemic; while, alluding to the

for, during the first thirteen years, the service of a rose on St. John's day, and an acreable rent of 2s. for every ensuing year. In 1422 John Staunton was Constable of the important Castle of Trim, under an especial appointment from Edmond de Mortimer, Earl of March. In 1698, Thomas Staunton was one of those appointed to collect a subsidy of £940 in the County Clare, and another of £1260, in the County Galway, for the service of the State; while, in 1722, Thomas Staunton was Recorder, and one of the representatives in Parliament of Galway, and became subsequently a Master in Chancery.

state of Ulster, they say "Donall O'Loughlin, Lord of Tyrone, marched, with a force consisting of English and Irish, into Tyrconnell, on which expedition he plundered Fanat, and took hostages from Donal O'Boyle, and from O'Taircert. O'Donnell thereupon marched his forces into Tyrone, and arrived at Tullaghoge, where he killed the cattle, burned the corn, plundered the country, and returned home in triumph. Midbeach and Eaghinish (Mevagh and Aghinis, near Lough Swilly) were plundered by the Kinel Owen, to which place they took their shipping, when a party of the Kinel Connell, headed by the son of Niall O'Donnell, attacked and slew many of them, but he was himself killed in the midst of the fight."

"1233. An army led by Felim O'Conor into Connaught, until they pitched their camp at Druming-ne-Carge(*a*), where the sept of Maolruana [i. e. the Mac Dermots] joined them, as did the inhabitants of the three Tuaths(*b*), and they went in pursuit of Hugh, son of Roderic, King of Connaught, until they obtained a victory over him, and they slew Hugh, son of Roderic; and Donogh Mac Dermot, son of Roderic; and Hugh Muimnagh, son of Roderic; and his son, and Thomas Biris, and John his brother; and John Guer, and many others, as well foreigners as Irishry, after also plundering the churches and the clergy, who had excommunicated them with the extinguishing of candles."

(*a*) The name of this locality seems still identified in that of the peninsula of Drummons, under the House of Rockingham, and the scene of the vignette title of this work.

(*b*) The three Tuaths or Taughs are still distinguishable within Moylurg, in Taughboy, Taughaboyne, and Taughlegin.

“This was,” add the Four Masters, “after they had been cursed and excommunicated by bell, crozier, and the extinguishing of candles, by the clergy of Connaught; for Hugh Muimnagh had plundered Tibohin (in the County Roscommon), and many other churches, so that he and his adherents fell in vengeance of the dishonour they had done to the saints, by violating their churches. The kingdom and government of Connaught were that day wrested from the sons of Roderic. Felim, the son of Cathal Crovdearg, then assumed the sovereignty of Connaught, and demolished the castles which had been erected by the sons of Roderic O’Conor and Mac William Burke, namely, the castles, of Bonegal, Caslen-na-circe, and Caslen-na-carrigi [both in Lough Corrib] and the castle of Dunamon.”

“An army led out with William de Lacy [the son of Hugh, by the daughter of King Roderic], and with the foreigners of Meath; great forays [by them] in Brefny, against O’Reilly(a), against Cathal and Cuconnaght, his uncle, until they took great spoils.—A numerous host of the sept of O’Reilly came against William de Lacy, and a battle was fought between them, and William Bret was slain at the first onset there, and others of the foreigners and William de Lacy were wounded there; and Charles O’Conor, the son of Cathal the White, and very many others; and they returned from that country without hostages, without homage,

(a) This is one of the historic families whose illustration is necessarily omitted, by reason of the available materials for such a memoir being too numerous and important for insertion here.

and William de Lacy, and Charles, the son of Cathal the White, departed, after a short interval, rendered necessary by the wounds which they had given each other."

"Niall Sionnagh O'Caruagh," add the Four Masters, "Lord of the men of Teffia, also died of the wounds he received in this battle, in his own house, after making his will, and receiving Extreme Unction." In reference to testamentary dispositions at the time, it may be remarked, that in this year the King gave license to Luke, Archbishop of Dublin, at any time before his death, to make a will, and freely to dispose of all his property, moveable or immoveable, even the crops growing on his lands.—Other formidable hostilities took place in Munster, the O'Brien having marched against O'Mahony, with the object of deposing him from his principality, on which occasion three sons of the latter dynast were slain. The closing notice of the Annals of Boyle at this year is :

"Ferral, son of Cormac, died.

"1234. Calends of January on the Lord's day. Year the fourth and tenth, and twice tenth, and the two hundredth, and the thousandth.—Great frost in that year, so that the lakes were locked, and people, and horses, and flocks passed over Lough Eradin [Lough Arrow], and Lough Ke, and Lough Tus, and over many other lakes.

"Hugh O'Hara slain by his brother, by the son of Durcan O'Hara, who succeeded to his kingdom of Luigne.—Diarmid O'Quin, leader of the Clan Gillican [a sept of Annaly], was slain.—Richard Marshal rises up in war against the King of the Saxons, in Saxon-land [England], and he

returned and he went into Leinster, and the foreigners of Ireland, subjects of the King of the Saxons, collected against him, that is to say, Mac Maurice, Justiciary of Ireland, and the Earl of Ulster, that is, Hugh de Lacy and Walter de Lacy, Lord of Meath, and they marched to the western Curragh of the Liffey, in Leinster, and they gave battle to Marshal, and they slew Marshal, and a great victory was obtained over his followers."

Of the unfortunate nobleman above alluded to, and of his fate, here briefly stated, Moore, in his 'History of Ireland,' gives the following interesting particulars: "However fertile were these dark times in acts of injustice, violence, and treachery, there are few events, in which all these qualities can be found more odiously exemplified, than in the melancholy fate of the young Richard, Earl Marshal, son of the late Protector of the realm. This lord having incurred the resentment of Henry, by joining in a confederacy against him with the Earl of Cornwall and other malcontent Lords, found himself, without trial, deprived of his high office of Marshal, and was forced to retire for safety into Wales; where, entering into an alliance with Llewellyn and other chiefs of that province, he successfully defended one of his own castles, that had been attacked by the King's troops, and made reprisals on the royal territories in return. To repress such daring movements by force would have been, on the King's part, no more than an exercise of the natural right of defence, but treachery was the means employed to get rid of this refractory

young lord. By the base contrivance, as it is said, of the Bishop of Winchester, Henry's chief adviser, letters, under the King's seal, fraudulently obtained, were sent to the Lord Justice, Maurice Fitzgerald, to Hugh and Walter de Lacy, Richard de Burgh, Geoffrey de Marisco, and others of the Irish Barons, informing them that Richard, late Earl Marshal of England, having been proscribed, banished, and deprived of his estates, yet still continuing in rebellion against his authority, it was required of these lords, that should Richard by chance land in Ireland, they should forthwith seize upon his person, and send him, dead or alive, to the King. In consideration, it was added, of this service, all the possessions and lands, that had devolved to Richard in Ireland, and were now at the King's disposal, would by him be granted to them and their heirs for ever. So tempting a bribe, to men brought up in no very scrupulous notions of right and wrong, could not fail to appeal with irresistible effect, and from thenceforth no art or treachery appears to have been spared to lure the victim into their toils. In order to induce him to pass over into Ireland, exaggerated accounts were conveyed to him of the force of his immediate adherents, together with secret assurances of support from many of the Barons themselves. Thus deceived as to the extent of his resources, he rashly ventured over with a guard of but fifteen followers, and immediately on his arrival was waited upon by the chief actor in the plot, Geoffrey

de Marisco, who, reminding him of his ancient rights, and of the valiant blood flowing in his veins, advised him to avenge the insults he had received, by attacking the King's territories without delay. This advice the unsuspecting young Earl adopted, and, taking the field with whatever force he could hastily collect, succeeded in recovering some of his own castles, and got possession of the city of Limerick, after a siege of but four days. Still further to carry on the delusion, till all should be ripe for his ruin, the treacherous Barons now affected alarm at the success of his arms, as threatening danger to the King's government, and, proposing a truce, requested an interview with him for the purpose of arranging the terms. To this, little suspecting the treachery that hung over him, the gallant young Earl assented, and attended by Geoffrey de Marisco, and about a hundred followers, proceeded to the place of conference, on the great plain of Kildare; but it was soon manifest that he had been decoyed thither only to be betrayed, the pretence of a conference had been devised with the sole view of provoking a conflict, and, the signal for onset having been given on the side of the Barons, Richard found himself suddenly deserted by his perfidious prompter De Marisco, who, drawing off eighty of the Earl's band, left him, with little more than the fifteen followers who had accompanied him from Wales, to stand the shock of a force ten times their number. Even thus abandoned and beset, the Earl Marshal kept his ground, till at length, unhorsed



and attacked by a traitor from behind, who plunged a dagger up to the hilt into his back, he fell all but lifeless on the field, and being conveyed from thence to one of his own castles, which had just fallen into the hands of the Justiciary, breathed his last in the midst of enemies, with only a youth of his own household to watch over him in his dying moments." One of the above-mentioned confederates against the Marshal, viz., Walter de Lacy, died in this same year, leaving two daughters, his co-heiresses, Margaret, married to Lord Theobald de Verdon, and Matilda, to Geoffrey de Geneville.

"Engus, the son of Gildas Forinnan, Lord of Lough Erne, was slain by O'Donnel, after he had made a foray against O'Donnel, and after O'Donnel had come to despoil him.

"Maolissa, the son of Donald O'Gormley, Prior of Inchmacnerin, rested in Christ.—Gildas, of the Saintly, the son of Arthur O'Bruin, Archdeacon of Roscommon, and a venerable priest, reposed in Christ.—Bishop O'Mailagmar [of Killala], and Bishop O'Flachrath, reposed in Christ, on the one day.—The monk, Gillissa O'Gibellan, anchoret of the island of the Holy Trinity, reposed in Christ."

In this year also occurred the deaths of Conor, son of Hugh, and Conor, son of Felim, both grandsons of Roderic; the former was slain in an outbreak of his own sept; the latter was killed by Rory, son of Cathal Croidearg. It was at this crisis that Felim O'Conor passed over to England, and laid before the King his causes of complaint against John Hibbert

de Burgo, on hearing which, King Henry commanded Maurice Fitzgerald, then Viceroy, to banish De Burgo and his family out of Connaught, and to give the whole sovereignty thereof to Felim, he paying therefor, annually, 5000 marks, as detailed more fully in Ware's Annals.

" 1235. Calends of January, second day of the week, ninth day of the moon, year the fifth, and the tenth, and the twentieth, and the two hundredth, and the thousandth.—Donald O'Neill, King of Tyrone, was slain by the son of Loughlin, who obtains the government after him."

The Mac Carthys, weakened by disunion, were, at this time, defeated by the foreigners, with great loss, at Tralee.

" Mattudan O'Mattudan, Lord of Silanchia, reposed in Christ."

A royal patent of this year is of record in the Tower of London, by which the King granted an annual allowance of forty marks, 100 cranocks of corn, and five casks of wine, yearly, to the King of Man, for his care in guarding the coasts of Ireland and England, so far as they were opposite to the Isle of Man.

" 1236. Calends of January, year sixteenth and twentieth, and two hundredth, and thousandth, the castle of Meelic(a) was destroyed by Felim O'Conor.

(a) The situation of the castle thus dismantled, was about four miles south-east of Clonfert, in the County Galway, on the River Shannon, where that river forms some picturesque falls. At this place, in 1153, the armies of Thady O'Brien, and Turlough

"The battle of Long-fort(*a*) was fought in Connaught, and Techlach O'Duffy was there wounded, and died in consequence.

"Storming of the rock [at Lough Ke].—A great army came out with Fitz-Maurice, Justiciary of Ireland, and with Richard, the son of William Burc, and with Walter Riddlesford, Chief Baron of Leinster, with the foreigners of Leinster, and with John Cogan, with the foreigners of Munster,

O'Connor, encountered each other. After the invasion in the time of Henry the Second, and on the surrender of Roderic O'Connor, this place was within the district granted to William de Burgo, who, in 1203, desecrated the Abbey that had been theretofore erected here, and erected the castle above mentioned on the spot. It was considered of such importance, that Richard de Burgo attempted to withhold its possession against the Crown, when a royal mandate was directed for its recovery. Subsequent to the destruction caused by Felim O'Connor here, it appears to have been restored; and in 1280, was held by Theobald Butler, as tenant to Walter de Burgo. In 1474, a monastery for conventual Franciscans was founded here by O'Madden, the dynast of the surrounding country, then called Silanchia. In July, 1538, the Deputy, Lord Leonard Gray, having crossed the Shannon at the ford of Banagher, lodged here. In 1542, the right to the castles of Banagher and Meelic was warmly contested between De Burgo and O'Madden, as is disclosed in the State Correspondence of the period. On the Dissolution, the monastery and its possessions were granted to Sir John King, as before mentioned, and by him assigned to the Earl of Clanrickard. The castle, in the ensuing wars, so utterly perished, that scarcely a trace of it is discoverable; but the remains of the friary are still very interesting, and contain monuments to the O'More family, the Maddens, Burkes, Dillons, Dalys, Skerrets, and Horana.

(*a*) A gentle and beautiful eminence, within the demesne of Rockingham.

and with the Routes or Lords of the Marches, until they took great spoil; and they came on Trinity Sunday to the monastery of Boyle, and they despoiled the monastery, and they broke its crypt, and they took away with them the vestments of the mass, and they made great spoils on the following day, and they sent scouting parties to Creit [in Kiltoghert parish], and to Cairthe-Muilchen [Glencar, County Leitrim] and the tower of Glen-fearna."

The site of this "*tor*," as it is designated by the several annalists, was at Glenfarne, i. e. the valley of the alder trees, in the vicinity of Manor Hamilton; but, as no traces of such a building have existed there within memory, nor are any records discoverable, connected with its origin, style, or uses, it cannot now be ascertained whether it should be classed amongst the "Round Towers of other days." Its mention, however, affords, in regard to this writer's theory of their era and purpose, recapitulated *ante*, p. 21, *et seq.*, and p. 131, an opportunity of adverting to the ponderous volume just published by Mr. Petrie, "On the Origin and Uses of the Round Towers of Ireland, &c." He was the Author of the Essay alluded to, *ante*, p. 33, and is, in this "Literary Crusade," the laborious maintainer of the Christian origin of the Towers. His present enlarged volume is a work of long applied, deep, and valuable research amongst the repositories of native literature, and brings to light most interesting evidences of Irish architectural taste, from a very early date. It has been compiled with honesty of purpose, and is, through-

out, conducted with a spirit of temperate inquiry and dispassionate candour, while, in its mechanic details, it is introduced most creditably to that attention which it should receive from the public. Yet, however holy his zeal, and however gratifying might be his conclusions to many, he has—as far as the opinion of one, who as honestly and steadfastly defends the positions of a pagan theory, will be received in judgment—utterly failed to establish their originality as Christian structures; and all his learned quotations but indicate, what never could have been rationally denied, that they (as well as the natives) were, after the mission of St. Patrick, converted to the true faith (*ante*, p. 31), were applied to the service of the Church as sanctuaries, repositories, and more especially and seasonably, as judicious rather than suitable belfries; and that, from the hour of such appropriation, they were naturally called “belfries” by the Christian natives. It would have been a sacrilegious solecism to style them “fire towers” after that fire was extinguished, and they had tolled, for believing communities, the honoured invitations to devotion; it would have been a reckless infidelity against the anathemas, which St. Patrick had denounced over the memorials of heathenism, and “*a fortiori*,” a deliberate desertion of duty, if the sacred order, from whose lips and pens the annals of the country were commemorated, had called the buildings “fire-towers,” which they had consecrated into belfries, and so enjoyed for successive centuries.

That of Clonmacnois, Mr. Petrie says (p. 390), was so used until 1552. And would the ecclesiastics, who compiled the "Annals of the Four Masters," have disowned what they found so long popularly reputed belfries, and which, as admitted, were, in some instances, stamped with the emblem of their faith, and with ornamented sculpture, only referrible to architects of Christian times? But these were (as heretofore (p. 32) relied upon) but later insertions, alterations carved on the undisturbed stone, or modern superstructures, like the embattled coping at Kildare. Mr. Petrie himself suggests such shifting adaptations: "*Many of the Towers*," he says (p. 386), "afford sufficient evidence, in the various styles of masonry and difference of material which they exhibit, that they have been, in part, *rebuilt in times long subsequent to that of their original foundation*." "*That the Tower of Clonmacnois was repaired at a period long subsequent to its erection*, there is abundant evidence in the masonry of the building itself" (p. 370). Even in the venerated solitude of Glendalough, he detects this pious fraud, in *the insertion of an "architrave elegantly wrought"* in the window of St. Kevin's house (p. 430). With this insight into the mysteries of *free masonry*, architectural calculations, as to the eras of those buildings, by comparison with adjacent churches—especially when applied with such anachronisms as alluded to *ante*, p. 131, and with such loose assertions as at p. 382, that "the Towers of Kilmacduagh, Killala, and Antrim, are in perfect harmony with the churches of

that period" (about A. D. 620), while there is no such erection at all at Antrim—cannot be deemed trustworthy testimony to their *origin*.

Neither can any more settled belief be formed, from the numerous extracts which he gives, as to their *appropriations*, although he himself concludes that he has "satisfactorily established" the primary and essential objects of the Round Towers "to have been for Christian belfries, retreats, and repositories;" in truth he has not advanced the inquiry beyond the assumption that they were built for belfries, because they were by all the monkish writers in late centuries called belfries. The credit and fame of many of the noblest religious edifices existing in the empire, would, by this fallacious argument, be wrested from the pious founders, and attributed to another priesthood, by a transfer more summary than that, which the royal robber accomplished with their endowments. Would not the metropolitan Bank of Ireland by such reasons be represented, as but the Bank of Ireland from the day of its foundation to the close of recorded history? Or if it were unfortunately consumed in some year of this century, and if a subsequent historian, writing, as did the Irish Annalists of the burning of Slane or Trim, or other, then called belfries, were to record this conflagration as of *the Bank*, with all its books, and some of the Directors and clerks, should it be accredited, that from such a then correct and justifiable appellation, that illustrious edifice had not primarily been the seat of Irish legislation, the stage for the

assembled senators of the country, the magnificent pile, whose flags, walls, galleries, dome, and every portion, were once consecrated by the footsteps, the touch, the looks, the echoes, the presence of a Grattan, a Charlemont, a Plunket, a Flood, a Curran, or a Bushe? But while there are some, who believe that the latter edifice may be restored to its pristine uses, it is undoubted that no such expectations are entertained for the Round Towers! May it not, however, be asked, if these were originally built for belfries, why was their use, as such, universally abandoned, and other, and generally less expensive steeples erected in their shadow? The answer is obvious, such an appropriation of the Towers was never preferable, or properly suited for the purpose, and was only adopted in policy and necessity as with a work done to the hand, but which could not be incorporated with the humble edifices, that Mr. Petrie shews the first Christian churches to have been; when even the cathedrals were constructed, as he cites from Bede "*more Scotorum, non de lapide sed de robore secto*" (p. 125), or of "moist earth, because wood was not near;" "of unadorned simplicity, and contracted dimensions" (p. 191), measuring, by St. Patrick's order, with a malediction upon any who should vary his criterion, only sixty feet in length, "for the distinguished churches" (p. 194). Accordingly, so long as they were of this unpretending architecture, their adopted belfries should be separate; but, when the usage that prevailed over Christ-



endness was introduced here, when the means of the clergy, and the zeal of the laity had increased, temples of a more durable character were erected, with belfries simultaneous, and as parcel of the church. And may it not be here asked, as St. Patrick was so solemnly particular in the uniform length of the little churches, why did he not leave conformable precepts to regulate the height, the shape, the circumference of the Round Towers, if they were to be Christian erections? but on the contrary, he is as silent of them, as if he rather accounted them an abomination in this isle of the Gentiles. Yet Mr. Petrie admits, some of them existed in the days of that apostle, and "were not uncommon in the sixth and seventh centuries" (p. 381), a fact more than corroborated by the tradition which he gives, as prevailing in the time of Cambrensis, and in the words of that historian; that a falcon used to roost so constantly on the "ecclesiastical tower" (Giraldus using the same cautious epithet he had applied to the Round Towers of A. D. 62, in Ireland, as *ante*, p. 21) of St. Brigid's town of Kildare, from her time (the fifth century), that it was called "the bird of Brigid." The narrative might suggest, that the Tower was then a "retreat," but it was for the birds of Mahmoud! and certainly testifies their conviction, that they should not be here disturbed by the ringing of bells, or other religious intrusions. Mr. Petrie is also assured, that a Round Tower was erected in the sixth century, because a certain ancient manuscript mentions, that a monk,

who had fallen from the top of such a circular building, was saved from death, and his fall broken, by the especial intervention of an angel ! the existence of the Tower is admitted without the benefit of such evidence ; but, where there were those early structures, surprise must be again expressed, that St. Patrick made no rules as to their dimensions. In truth, he left them, as he found them, stubbornly narrow, round, lofty Towers, built according to the custom of preceding generations, and having one remarkable uniformity in their inadequacy and extravagant costliness as belfries ; a costliness the less likely to be conceived or imitated on the first introduction of the Gospel, while the cells and habitations of the holy ministers of religion were, as well as the churches, according to Mr. Petrie (pp. 420 and 426), of such cheap and humble materials. The pagan colonists, on the contrary, to whom the present writer would attribute the Towers, did, as Mr. Petrie admits, build their fortresses and houses, of stone, but, he adds, without cement (p. 126). As a counterpoise of skill he relies that some of the Christian churches were, even in the time of St. Patrick, of stone (pp. 121-158). To none of these, however, do Round Towers appear to have been annexed, yet does this gentleman affect to determine the dates of erection of certain others to be within Christian times in Ireland, by assuming that they were the original belfries in the respective graveyards, which in truth they pre-occu-

pied (see *ante*, p. 25), but, before entering upon this—the most effective line of argument, if it could but be established—it is to be understood, that the present writer has always, from his first more extended view of this subject, in the Prize Essay (published in the Royal Irish Academy Transactions, Vol. xvi. Part 1), denied that these towers were of Danish origin, or were ever used for anchorets or penitents, or as original places of sepulture; that he has hereinbefore (p. 27) disclaimed any aid to his theory from the "*Fiodh Nemhaid*," or celestial towers, of Dr. O'Connor, and abjures any participation in the etymological lunacy of Vallancey, or later pseudo-antiquaries; freely admits the early use of bells in Ireland, and as freely all that Mr. Petrie records of the roofing, the plundering, and the destroying of Round Towers, and their conflagrations as then recognized belfries, with complete rings of bells, and as many victims as they could hold, or as may be required; nor can he object to the assertion, that "the belfry of Clonmacnois was burned with its books and precious things," as he thinks that rather proves, it could only be spoken of some edifice distinct from the Round Tower, which still exists there to the height of ninety feet, and only wants a small portion of its conical top; nor, for a like reason, will he dissent from the notice at p. 390, of "the piercing of the belfry of Roscrea by lightning," as the Round Tower is still standing there unscathed, and 96 feet in height; but certainly, even with such willingness to

concede, it is yet not so easy to believe that the belfries, mentioned by the Four Masters as having been burned at Slane and at Trim, could have so utterly disappeared if they were stone Round Towers; or that the belfry of Tullaghard, alleged to be burned in 1171, by Tiernan O'Ruarc, can be identified with the Round Tower, which, in the same page of Mr. Petrie's volume, p. 373, is admitted to have here survived the day of that visitation until 1764.

Now, however, to advert to what are put forward as downright demonstrations of the erection of Round Towers in Christian times; and first, in general terms it is averred, as before suggested, that belfries existed in the days of St. Patrick, that "they were not uncommon in the sixth and seventh centuries;" nor is this general position denied, belfries should have succeeded the introduction of bells, and yet more, it may be admitted, without weakening the pagan theory, that all the belfries of these periods were Round Towers, ready-made Round Towers, which a group of missionaries, more essentially busied in the labours of conversion, would have little time or means to found. Mr. Petrie himself seems to have been struck with the cogency of such an inference, and is willing to postpone their era, by reason of *their ornamented architecture*, which he says (p. 386) intimates that the great majority of those Towers "were erected in the 9th and 10th centuries;" yet here he has to explain, how they could be laboured and multiplied during the appalling visitation of

Danish dominion, during these disastrous years, of which himself (at p. 239) writes: "it could hardly have been at such a period of calamity (see also *ante*, p. 129, *et seq.*) that the ecclesiastics would have employed themselves in the erection of buildings of a more costly character, and requiring more time to complete them, *than those already existing in the country.*" Yet again, was it at that time that Brian Boróimhe, he says (p. 386) in the words of an Irish authority, "*gave out 32 belfries,*" and he hence concludes, that during a reign, whose interval is characterized as "the wars of Brian," that monarch did yet obtain such intervals of rest, as to erect no less than 32 of those speaking monuments of time, labour, and expense, uninterruptedly applied—the Round Towers. It has been conceded, if required, that all the Round Towers were at intervals belfries, but the converse cannot hold, and most assuredly the 32 belfries of Brian Boróimhe's, it may be said, simultaneous erection, could not have been Round Towers; and the notice but proves how vaguely the term "*cloich-teach*" was applied to other edifices than those under consideration. The next alleged aggregate erection of these Towers is laid in the 12th century, and attributed (p. 391) to Donogh O'Carrol, supreme King of Orgial, a district comprising the present Counties of Armagh and Louth. If these were Round Towers, they must have been built almost under the eye of Cambrensis, but he does not note such modern erections within the English Pale and in such troubled

times; on the contrary, it will be remembered he considers those "*turres ecclesiasticæ* (i. e. religious Towers, or even be it translated, *then* Christian towers) of such remote antiquity, as to record the popular tradition that even in his time, and since, prevailed, that many of them were overwhelmed in the inundation (see *ante*, p. 21), which Mr. Petrie admits (p. 46), occurred four centuries before Christianity was known in Ireland, as proveable, he adds, "from the most ancient and trustworthy of our Annals." Of Donogh O'Carrol's alleged buildings it is observable, that no trace of even a single Round Tower has been discovered in the County of Armagh, and but two, of admittedly higher antiquity, in Louth.

Passing from those vague notices of general tower-building, Mr. Petrie affects to fix the precise years in which certain of them were raised. "The *earliest* record of the erection of a Round Tower is at 965" (p. 377), at Tomgraney, in the County Clare! and certainly Colgan has a note of the raising of a belfry there, but that this was none of the durable Round Towers seems evidenced by the fact, that, as Mr. Petrie admits (p. 386), it was soon afterwards repaired by Brian Boroimhe, and, although it was at so comparatively recent dates erected and renewed, not a mention of it appears afterwards in all the *Annalists*, nor has a trace of any such structure been ever known to exist within the parish. True it may be that Mr. Petrie was informed (p. 377) that "according to the natives of the place, *some remains*

*existed* about *forty* years since;" but he himself, in other parts of his work, prudently places no great confidence in the traditions of the peasantry in aid of antiquarian inquiry, and in this instance their alleged information was of the most widely indefinite character. Were the remains square, oblong, or circular? Might they have been the fragments of an abandoned lime-kiln? They were not known in the time of Seward, *fifty* years ago; they are not specified by Grose, Archdall, Ledwich, or any other antiquarian; no ancient tourists take notice of them; the unsubstantial belfry has passed away "like the baseless fabric of a vision!" But then, he adds, about the same time, Ferral O'Rourke erected at Clonmacnois "*the small steep castle or steeple commonly called in Irish a belfry*;" here, then, is a species of modern erection, evidently the mimic fashion of a later day, recognized as a belfry, according to the popular estimate; such is the weight of native tradition! The date of this erection is, however, subsequently abjured, as only resting on the authority of the Book of Clonmacnois, "a book," says the gentleman who produced it in evidence, "of too apocryphal a character to entitle it to much weight" (p. 388); the Four Masters, he says, are more accurate when they state this completion of this structure as of the "*great belfry*" of Clonmacnois, by O'Malone, in 1124. How curious! the identical "small steep castle," as it is called by the former annalists, becomes "a great belfry," in the conception of the latter, Mr. Petrie's leading interpreters and witnesses, and

that gentleman admits not only that it is *much smaller, but also of quite different materials, height, and style*, from all others in Ireland (pp. 403-4), nor in regard to its era does he trust either chronologists, but *thinks* it was erected in 908 (p. 389); so much for the ascertainable date of the belfry of Clonmacnois! The third and last instance of this *fixity of date* is put forward in the case of Annaghdown, in the County of Galway, in reference to which it is said, that some Irish Annalists state the erection of a belfry there so lately as in 1238! and this must be a Round Tower! although the utter absence of any such building in record or existence is equally certain, and indeed admitted, as in the former case of Tomgraney.

Such are the irrelevant extracts and interpretations of rare Irish manuscripts, by which it is affected to conclude, *beyond a controversy or doubt*, the "origin and uses of the Round Towers of Ireland!" and to demolish all the speculations of *literary heathenism*. How innocent these efforts have been to effectuate the object must appear, at least in the case of the present writer, who, from the inefficacy of such long and devoted research to invalidate his theory in any one point, now but re-iterates it with increased confidence, and feels it wholly unnecessary to add or alter a line, in what he has heretofore written, except in the unimportant instance, *ante*, p. 26, in which he erroneously considered, as did Mr. Petrie in his original Essay (see *ante*, p. 33), that a notice at the year 448, in the "*Annals of Ulster*,"



applied to Ireland, where it seems it was really spoken of Constantinople!

But one word more of Mr. Petrie's Essay. Slighting the explanation, relied upon (*ante*, p. 25) in the pagan theory, that the early Christian churches were, designedly and subsequently, erected near the Round Towers, with the object of attracting converts at their wonted places of worship, he inquires (p. 36), why, if churches were built near Round Towers, were they not also built near cromlechs, &c.; the interrogatory is answered in perfect accordance with the theory (see *ante*, p. 30), the cromlechs were deserted by their votaries when the Round Towers superseded their use; and, in the days of St. Patrick, the religious rites and assemblies of the people were only to be encountered at these revered monuments of their reformed faith—the Round Towers.

The interest, which even grave antiquarians are disposed to hope the public take in their contests, and yet more the necessity of an author defending the correctness of his theory, will justify this digression—if it be considered such.—To return to the plundering expedition of the Viceroy and his too willing adherents.

“They carried with them great spoils to Ardcarne, and the Justiciary of Ireland made a fortress there for himself, that he might stay there until they took their departure thence into Thomond against Felim and Donogh Carbreigh [O'Brien], and they achieved a victory over Donogh, and they made prisoners, and they went thence into Western

Connaught, until they came to Patrick's well, and made great spoils in the country of O'Flaherty, and in the country of O'Heyne; sailing in their ships around it, they went thence to Easadara, and they took spoils in the country of O'Donnel, to compel him to drive out Felim, and [crossing the Curlew mountains] they came thence to the harbour of the great rock of Lough Ke, for Felim had sent thither many chiefs of his sept to maintain possession of it, but the foreigners had led many at that time to take the fortress of Long-fort, and the Termon<sup>(a)</sup> land, and the corbeship of Clarus Mac Mullen, Archdeacon of Elphin, and the Island of Trinity, and that of the Canons of Lough Ke; and the Justiciary and the Magnates of the foreigners of Ireland essaying to storm that sept [of the natives], passed nights there, making their assault, but without affecting the fortress during the whole time. There came then many ships, with long boats and with skiffs, to Lough Ke, and they transported the skiffs into the brushwood of the soft marsh, and from that point sent many fiery torches into the citadel [of the rock], and it was not possible to come upon it after that time. They kindled flaming bundles of the straw of Ardcarney on Lough Ke, and they carried the heath of all the country, with its straw, on Sunday; and they wrapped raw hides about those bundles, so that they were very light, and they kindled a great quantity of them in a ship, with a combustible covering over them, expecting to fire the citadel by the flames thereof. A great terror seized the sept that was within it, and they came out of it, on faith given, without slaughter or apprehension; and the Justiciary sent a detachment of the foreigners into it to take the possession, and they ate all the provisions that were there from thenceforth to Saturday.

(a) A townland of 200 acres, within the parish of Boyle, is still known by this denomination.

But Felim thereupon made peace with them, and Cormac Mac Diarmad came with him; on the same day the Constable of the Rock went out of it, and the party, that had been placed there, left it after him, and the foreigners came to Trinity Island for protection, but they were driven thence. The rock being recovered by Cormac, it was considered advisable, with his approbation, to raze and destroy the citadel, so that it could not be the object of such assaults in future."

(This memorable expedition, referred by the Four Masters to the year 1235, has been inadvertently stated, in the first volume of this work, p. 189, as having occurred in 1233).

" Matthew, Prior of Trinity Island, rested in Christ.—Comded O'Quillan, Prefect of Inch-mac-nerin, under the illustrious Archdeacon of Elphin, also rested happily in Christ, and was buried in the island of the Holy Trinity, on St. Finian's day. May his soul rest in peace!"

The Four Masters add, that in this year " Maolmurry O'Loughnan, having been elected to the see of Tuam, went to England, and, after receiving the Pope's letters, was, with the consent of the King, consecrated."

" 1237. Year seventh, and tenth, and twentieth, and two hundredth, and a thousandth, Calends of January, Tuesday. A parley sought by the Justiciary with Felim, under pretext of settling boundaries, when a great army entered upon the sept of O'Connor, and utterly routed them, and banished them. Great preys were taken by the Justiciary, and he despoiled even to Ligege [*semble* Sligo] in the region of Carbury, and he there conquered Felim and O'Donnell and Mac Diarmad, and obtained yet more of their cattle and

their people, with which, and other things, they came into Connaught, and there took many captives, and carried off all with them beyond the Curlews into Moylurg, and the Justiciary remained at Rindun until they came.—Felim returned to Connaught, and a great body with him, until they came into the region of Hy-Maine, and he laid waste Rindun, and Conor, surnamed the “tawny,” was there slain while leading a foray.”

Felim, say the Four Masters, had been invited into Hy-Maine by O’Kelly, O’Flinn, and the sons of Hugh, son of Cathal Croidéarg, and the son of Art O’Melaghlin, all of whom “forming four strong battalions, marched to Randon, where Brian, son of Turlough O’Conor, Owen O’Heyne, Mac Costello, and others, had all the cattle of the country. Felim’s men crossed over the rampart and ditch which fortified the island, and every leader of a troop, and chief of a band, drove off each a share of the cattle, as they found them in the place, and then they separated with their booty, leaving of the four battalions only four horsemen with Felim. As Brian, son of Turlough, and Owen O’Heyne, with their party, perceived that Felim’s forces were scattered, they set out quickly and actively, with a small party of horse, and many foot soldiers, to attack O’Conor and his few men. Conor Buidhe, son of Turlough, did not perceive them until he came up, and, mistaking them for his own party, was killed by Roderic, son of Hugh, son of Cathal Croidéarg. Felim, loudly calling his men, commanded them to leave their booty and attack the

enemy, and many of the party were killed by Felim and his followers in the battle, both on and outside of the island, and amongst the killed were many notorious for their crimes and evil deeds. Teigue, son of Cormac, son of Tomultach Mac Dermot, was amongst the slain. When Mac William heard of the defeat of all those who had opposed O'Connor, he joined him to subdue them, after which he went to Tuam, unnoticed and unperceived, and from thence to Mayo 'of the Saxons,' and he left not a rick or measure of corn at the great church of Mayo, or in the church of St. Michael the Archangel, and his troops carried off from those churches eighty measures of corn; they afterwards went to Turlough and plundered his place in a similar manner; they then sent a party to plunder the people of Dermot, son of Manus, and meeting with the people of Conor Roe, and of Turlough, the three parties plundered these places indiscriminately. Manus was obliged to banish and expel the people of Dermot, and on the following day Conor Roe went to Mac William and made peace with him, and the cattle of which he had been plundered were restored, and all the property, which had been taken from the churches and could be recognized as belonging to them, was all restored. Dermot, son of Manus, submitted to the English, and claimed protection for his people and property. Mac William proceeded to Balla, where he remained one night; from thence he went to Tuam,

and he left Connaught without peace, happiness, or provisions, either in churches or country."

"Macraic Mac Moelin, priest of Kilmactrany [County Sligo] died.—Hugh O'Giblon, priest of Kilrodan [County Sligo], and canon of the order in Trinity Island, died on the night of his nativity, and he was placed in the choir at the chaunting of the mass on the following day, and was buried with honour on the day after that.

"1238. Calends of January, on the day between the two fasts, the year eighteenth and twentieth, and two hundredth, and thousandth, Felim O'Conor came to Connaught with Cuconnaght O'Reilly, and Cathal Mac Ranell(a) [Reynolds],

(a) The sept of Mac Ranell gave their name to the extensive territory of Muintir-iolis, in the present County of Leitrim. In 1150, its chief, Connor Mac Ranell, was slain by Hugh, son of Tiernan O'Ruarc. In 1213, Derry was plundered by this sept. In a few years, after the above Cathal had joined in the expedition mentioned in the text, his own district was subjected to a similar visitation by the O'Reillys; Mac Ranell, however, soon afterwards collecting his forces, marched to Fenaugh, where he gave "a woeful defeat," to these his assailants. In 1419, Geoffrey MacRanell assisted, as chief of his sept, at the inauguration of Art, son of Teigue O'Ruarc, as King of Brefny, and in 1464, Irial, son of Cathal Roe Mac Ranell, died "Tanist of Muintir-iolis." In 1535, a Mac Ranell, Archdeacon of Kells, was deputed by "the Silken Lord," Lord Thomas Fitzgerald, and his adherents, to seek aid against the English from the Pope, and from Charles the Fifth. In 1646, Charles Reynolds, described as "of Jamestown," sat amongst the confederate Catholics. In the same year, amongst those who repudiated the peace of Ormond, appear the names of Bernard Mac Ranell, chief of his sept, Corad Mac Ranell, and Cornelius Mac Ranell, as on behalf of themselves and their adherents. The surname was afterwards changed into the English

and the people of Hy-Bruin and Conmacne, when they advanced northwards beyond the Curlews against the sons of Roderic, and they gave them battle, and obtained the victory over them, and made great spoliation upon Conor, the son of Cormac, in Tyr-ailell, and afterwards transported their ships upon Lough Ke, until they banished thence Cormac Mac Diarmad, King of Moylurg, and devastated Moylurg, and they put Donough, the son of Murtough, in the government of that country and of the lake."

Immediately afterwards, according to the Four Masters, "the English Barons of Ireland having settled in Connaught, commenced building castles there:"

appellation of Reynolds. In the Parliament of the Commonwealth, convened at Westminster, by Cromwell, in 1654, Commissary-General Reynolds was elected to sit as one of three representatives for Tipperary and Waterford, in Munster, and as one of two so elected for the town and county of Galway. The Act of Explanation of 1665 contained a proviso for the restoration of James Reynolds of Lough-Scur, to all his estates. Accordingly, in a grant of lands in the County Roscommon, to Matthew Begg, in 1679, the rights of James Reynolds therein were expressly saved, as were the rights of Humphrey Reynolds, in another grant of premises in the same County, to Oliver, Lord Baron of Louth. In 1689, Edmund Reynolds was one of the representatives of the County Leitrim, in King James's Parliament of Dublin. Necessarily omitting a mass of intermediate notices, it but remains here to say, that the last representative of this historic sept, within the principality of his ancestors, was George Nugent Reynolds, distinguished for his literary acquirements, and his numerous poetic effusions yet wholly unpublished. The male line, through which the residue of the inheritance was transmitted, failed with him, but that residue is now enjoyed by his sister, the lady of Captain Richard Macnamara.

and they specify such erections within the present baronies of Kilmain and Carra, in the County Mayo.

“Donat O’Fidubra, Vicar of Patrick, died in Saxon-land. The first synod held by Moelmori O’Laughnan, Archbishop of Tuam, at Athlone, on the occasion of the pall coming to him from Rome.”

He was an eminent canonist, and had previously gone on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem.

“Murtough, the son of Roderic, was slain by Mac Manus. —Thomas O’Ruadan, Bishop of Luigne [Achonry], rested in Christ. —Gilla-Jesu, son of the historian, Bishop of Conmacne [Ardagh], died. —The foundation laid of the monastery of Canons, by Clarus Mac Moelin, Archdeacon of Elphin, in Trinity Island, in Lough Uachtar, by the aid of the family of Cathal O’Reilly.

In this year the Irish septs of Ulster expelled Donel Mac Loughlin from his government, substituting O’Neill; they were, however, in the following year, defeated with great slaughter by Mac Loughlin, who thus recovered his sovereignty, but only to lose it, with his life, in 1241, in battle with Brian O’Neill.

“1240. Calends of January, on the day of abstinence, year fortieth, and two hundreth, and thousandth. —Cathal Mac Griava, a skilful general, died.”

“In this year,” say the Annalists of Inisfallen, “Felim, son of Cathal Croidearg, King of Connaught, went again to the King of England, and got great honour on that journey.” The memorial, on which he sought this interview, is of record in the Tower



of London, and its scope is more fully given in a preceding notice of Elphin, while the royal interview is thus written of by Moore. "The rapacity and violence, which had marked the conduct of De Burgh and his kinsmen throughout these contests, had been made known to Henry through various channels. Among others, Felim, the new dynast of Connaught, had addressed the King confidentially on the subject, and requested leave to visit him in England, for the purpose of consulting with him on their mutual interests and concerns; after due deliberation on the part of Henry, the conference with his royal brother of Connaught was accorded, and so successfully did Felim plead his own suit, and expose the injustice of the grasping family opposed to him, that the King wrote to Maurice Fitz-Gerald, then Lord Justice, and with a floridness of style, caught, as it would seem, from his new Irish associates, desired that he would 'pluck up by the root, that fruitless sycamore De Burgh, which Hubert, Earl of Kent, in the insolence of his power, had planted in those parts, and not permit it to bud forth any longer.'"—The Four Masters note at this time the founding of a Franciscan monastery, in Waterford, by an English knight, of the name of Purcel, and another at Timoleague, by Mac Carthy, Lord of Carberry, in which "his own tomb was constructed in the choir; and the Barrys More, the O'Mahonys of Carberry, and the Barons de Courcy, are also interred there."

"1241. Calends of January, on the Lord's day,—Clarus,

Archdeacon of Elphin, a prudent and discreet man, who mortified his flesh by fasting and prayer, who supported the poor and the orphan, who merited the crown of patience, who suffered persecution from many for justice sake, the venerable founder of establishments for the fraternity of the Holy Trinity throughout all Ireland, and especially of the monastery of the Holy Trinity at Lough-Ke, where he chose sepulture for himself, there rested in Christ, on the Sunday of Pentecost, in the year of our Lord 1241. May the great God in Heaven, whom he served on earth, in whose honour he built the church of Rendevin, and the monastery of the Holy Trinity at Lough Uachtar, as well as that of the Holy Trinity at Athmoy, and that of the Holy Trinity at Hell-ras, be propitious to his soul, for which soul let every one reading this say a Pater Noster!"

The Four Masters relate, that in this year "Donal More, the son of Egnaghan O'Donnel, Lord of Tyrconnel, Fermanagh, and North Connaught, as far as the Curlew Mountains, and of Orgial, died in a monastic habit, having gained the palm of victory over the world and the devil, and was interred, with great honour and solemnity, in the monastery of Easroa, in the harvest of this year. Malachy O'Donnel was appointed Lord of Tyrconnel in his father's place. O'Neill (i. e. Brian), after having been expelled by Donal Mac Loughlin, came to O'Donnel, who, with his forces, accompanied O'Neill to Tyrone, and they fought a battle with Mac Loughlin, in which were slain Donal O'Loughlin, Lord of Kinel-Eogan, and nine of his kinsmen, together with all the chiefs of that district; and Brian was then appointed Lord thereof."

" 1242. Calends of January, Monday.—Great contentions in this year between the foreigners at Ath-na-n-Aig"(a).

This seems identical with a notice in the Four Masters, as of 1241: " The Lord Justice, Maurice Fitzgerald, having collected a great army, marched into Magh-Ai, where he plundered Fiachra O'Flynn and Donogh Mac Dermot. A small party of O'Conor's people overtook them, and slew Nar Mac Giolla Kelly, and many others."

" Lucia, the nun, daughter of the son of Gilladhu O'Conang, of the sisterhood of Ardcarne, a person of great devotion and of edifying conversation, rested in Christ, on the fourth day in Easter week.—Gilla Comded O'Drucan, an excellent and renowned priest, rested in Christ.—Gilla O'Moran, the Holy, rested in Christ."

In this year also died Hugh de Lacy the younger, Earl of Ulster, and, like his brother Walter, left no male issue; his only daughter, however, having married Walter de Burgo, carried the title to him. The Masters add the death of another individual, often before mentioned, Donogh Carbreay O'Brien, "Lord of the Dalcassians, the tower of generosity, and excellence of the south of Ireland;" as also the death of his son, Turlough, whereupon Conor O'Brien assumed the sovereignty of Thomond, while

(a) This was the name of an ancient townland in the County of Roscommon, with a church upon it, which was granted therewith, in the thirteenth century, by Tancred Brun (Browne), to the Abbey of St. Thomas the Martyr, in Dublin.

they relate, that Brian Dearg (the Red), son of Donogh O'Dowd, Lord of Tyreragh, Tyrawley, and Erris, was slain on his journey to perform a pilgrimage at the Abbey of Boyle. According to the same Annalists, a great chapter was then held by the Primate of Armagh, and other ecclesiastics, at Lughmadh (Louth), on which occasion were exhibited the relics which St. Mochtheus had brought from Rome.

“ 1243. Calends of January, day of the first fast.—David Mac Kelly, Archbishop of Cashel, died.—Alen O'Sullivan, Bishop of Lismore, died.—Eogan O'Ethoden died.—The daughter of the Earl died.”

To these obits the Four Masters add that of Cathasach O'Snedhiusa, Dean of Muintir-Maolruana (Moylurg) at Ardcarne.

“ Meeting of the clergy of the diocese of Elphin, convened by Tomaltach O'Conor, at Kill-thesin (*seemle* Kill-trustan, a parish of the diocese).”

At this time died Rory and Connor, two of the sons of Hugh, the son of Cathal Crovdearg; the former was slain at Athleague, the latter appears to have died a natural death. Felim O'Conor, styled “ son of the King of Connaught,” had, at the same time, the royal letter of protection, and safe conduct to the King in England, who, “ having collected,” as the Masters say, “ a great army to oppose the King of France, sent messengers commanding the attendance of the English of Ireland to his aid. Richard, the

son of William de Burgh, was among those who went, and he died abroad with the same army."

" 1244. The Calends of January fell on the day between the two fasts [viz. Tuesday]."

In this year Henry the Third issued his memorable summons to the kings and chiefs of Ireland, to join him in person in his expedition against Scotland, when the attendance of the following individuals was required: Felim "the son of the former King" (O'Connor); O'Reilly of Brefny; O'Hanlon of Orier; O'Neill, King of Kinel-Eogan; O'Cahan of Kenoght; O'Enery (a branch of the O'Cahans); Donald Mac Donell; Mac Donough of Tyragherrell; Mac Gennis of Iveagh; Mac Cartane of Kinelearty; Mac Gillemurri O'Neill of Triagh-O'Neill; O'Donnel of Tyrconnel; O'Neill of Claneboy; O'Flynn, King of Tuteri; Mac Mahon of Uriel; Conor O'Brien Carbrey of Thomond; O'Brien of Tybrien; Cormac Mac Carthy of Desmond; Ros O'Faolan of Decies; O'Flaherty of Borin; O'Kelly of Kilconnell; and O'Byrne of Rainilough. In the following year, it may be added, by reason of the continued hostilities between Henry and the sovereign of Wales, who denied his superiority, the former directed a similar mandate to his Irish Justiciary, Maurice Fitz-Gerald, seeking aid for this service. Although, however, that officer attended at the muster, accompanied by the "Prince of Connaught," yet his tardiness on the occasion was so much resented by his royal master, that he was, within a short time,

dismissed from his high office, "whereupon," writes Moore, "retiring from the world, he took upon him the habit of St. Francis, and, dying about ten years after, was buried in the friary of that order, of which he had himself been the founder, at Youghal. 'He had lived all his life,' says Matthew Paris, 'worthily and laudably, with the sole exception of the mark of infamy left, unjustly perhaps, upon his name, by the share he was supposed to have taken in the events that led to the melancholy death of Richard, Earl Marshal.'" The justice of the obloquy sought to be cast upon the memory of Fitz-Gerald, by his removal, as above, from the Vice-royalty, seems not less questionable; the Irish barons, in these times, asserted a privilege (unknown to these of England), of not being bound to attend the King beyond the sea, and of which Henry was so deferentially conusant, that, in his writs of summons on these occasions, a saving admission was expressly inserted, that attendance in compliance therewith should not be relied upon as a precedent hereafter, a state of national feeling, in the recognition and assertion of which the Justiciary's conduct may possibly have originated.

The Annals of Boyle here happily close, as does this section of the History of the country, with the grateful announcement,

"PEACE IN ALL IRELAND."

Would it were perpetuated! Within the remote, but important interval, which has been the scope of the

present writer's inquiry, it has been his duty in candour to record the ruinous consequences of anarchy and insubordination, that too frequently harassed the land; but, to conclude the volume with somewhat of the gratified feeling, that dictated the last words of the *Annalists of Boyle*, it has also been his better lot, by the records of the native annalists, as set forth in this volume, and by those of external authority, as collected in his "*Essay on the ancient History, &c., of Ireland*," to preserve the immemorial traditions, which, as light from the "dark backward and abysm of time," illustrate the high antiquity that links his country with Egypt—the land of Thebes, Sesostriis, and the pyramids—with Greece, and the memorials of the student's most cherished recollections—with Phœnicia, and "the merchants of the world"—with the remoter East, and the comparatively exalted tenets of sun-worship; to suggest these testimonies of antiquity, which, at the Council of Constance, gave precedence to the ambassadors of England, only as Ireland was annexed to the British diadem; to note some phases of the source, whence Druidism and its interesting ceremonies are supposed to have emanated; to chronicle a people, who, while they are shewn to have triumphantly opposed the Roman eagles in Britain, were themselves, until the era of the Danish invasions, never subjected to those military ravages from abroad, that revolutionized the habits and policies of other nations; to exhibit, in the course of both those works, the country

that, within the scope of this inquiry presents itself in so many interesting attitudes; that received and protected the refugees of nations, whom Roman oppression had expatriated; that excited the jealous admiration of Agricola; that gave her name of "Scotia," and a colony of her hardiest sons, to the land of which the parent may well be proud; that shook with the terror of war the provinces of Roman Britain; that sheltered and restored the exiled princes of France, of England, and of Wales; that, while it kindled with the chivalry of the Crusades, by its more peaceful piety acquired, and well merited, the appellation of the "Island of Saints;" that not only founded abbeys at home, for the conversion of the Saxon and the stranger, but even carried over learning and religion, not merely into the provinces of the British Empire, but into every portion of continental Europe; that, as Spenser himself admits, gave letters to England; that sent forth men, from whose lips Alfred and Charlemagne received instruction; that in Virgilius produced the first discoverer of the earth's true figure; the country, in whose language so much of the interest of primeval manners remains still secreted; whose musical pre-eminence guided the early taste of Wales and Scotland, wrung the praises of Giraldus, Polydore Virgil, Fordun, Stanihurst, Dante, Handel, and Geminiani; the country which, on the heights of its hills, and in the picturesque recesses of its valleys, presents such aged but eloquent witnesses of other days—the caves, the cromlechs, the



rocking stones, the pillars, the casils, and the crosses; the everlasting architecture of her Round Towers, her raths, and her mounts, and which once received into her harbours that commerce, whose early extent is avouched in the not more elegant than faithful and instructive pages of Tacitus.—Would it were ever, as in the close of this history,

“PEACE IN ALL IRELAND!”

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ILLUSTRATED IN THE NOTES OF THIS VOLUME.

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